DESTIN - 30A - FORT WALTON BEACH... WHAT THE LOCALS READ

FREE

Beachcomber

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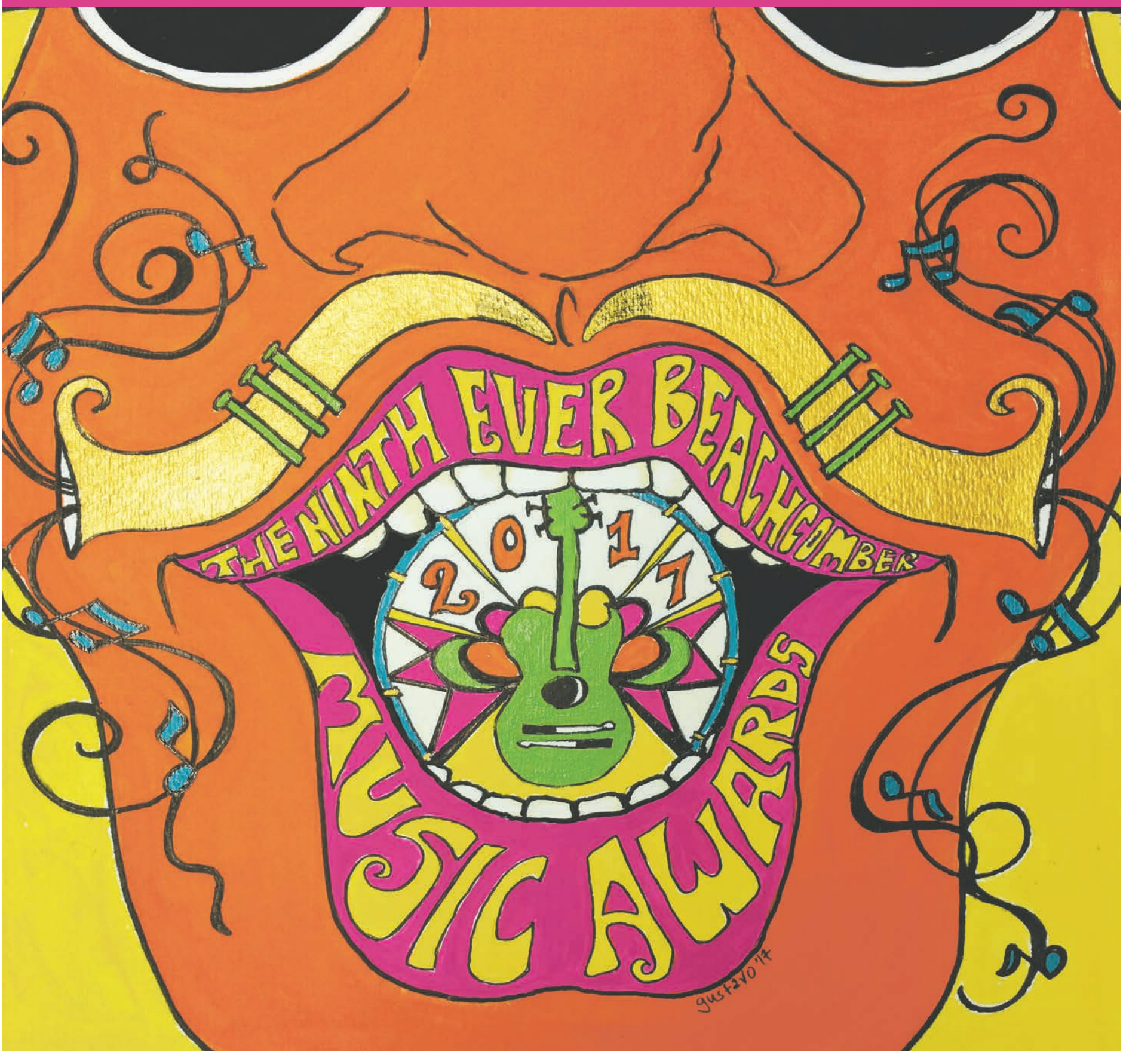

FRESH SEAFOOD?

One of the first questions people ask when they visit our area is
"How can we be sure we're getting fresh seafood?"

That's an excellent question. There is a good chance that the seafood you will be offered traveled farther than you did. In the state of Florida, even though we are surrounded by water, more than 90% of the seafood sold this year will be imported from other countries.

Throughout the United States, the huge majority of seafood is imported. Most of it is mislabeled. Frozen seafood is sold as "fresh" and imported seafood is sold as "local." According to Oceana, 93% of fish sold as red snapper is actually some other species. 57% of tuna sold at sushi bars throughout the country is not tuna. Most of the tilapia served in this country comes from Viet Nam and Thailand and much of it is farmed in waters with sewage run-off and the source of feed is pig feces.

Harbor Docks has been selling fish through its wholesale market since 1981. We sell to markets across the United States and Canada. We also sell to select restaurants along the Gulf Coast. Harbor Docks contracts with over 100 commercial boats to insure that we have an adequate supply of fresh fish.

We invite you to dine at our restaurants – Harbor Docks, in the heart of Destin, and Camille's, overlooking the Gulf in Crystal Beach. But we'd also encourage you to try any of the wonderful, independent, local restaurants in our area that are committed to serving Florida seafood. We know who they are, because we sell them their fish.

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Check our website to find out which restaurants sell certified Gulf-to-Table fish from Harbor Docks Seafood Market.

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Snapper and Tuna stats: http://oceana.org/en/news-media/publications/reports/oceana-study-reveals-seafood-fraud-nationwide
Imported seafood stat: http://www.fishwatch.gov/farmed_seafood/outside_the_us.htm
Tilapia/pig feces: http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-10-11/asian-seafood-raised-on-pig-feces-approved-for-u-s-consumers.html

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Reader submissions are welcome. Due to the huge volume we receive, please accept our apologies if we do not respond right away.

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Okaloosa Arts Alliance

DESTIN HISTORY & FISHING MUSEUM

On Our Cover:

The Ninth Ever Beachcomber Music Awards

By Carmen Stiles

Monday, March 6 at Graffiti & the Funky Blues Shack, Destin

Opening Remarks

Music Awards #9 – Nothing Is Forbidden, Everything Is Permitted

A lovely rendering of Beachcomber Editor Chris Manson and his BFF Maddison by Juan Francisco Adaro. Lately, there's been some hubbub that Adaro is relocating his Grayton Beach gallery. Or already has. Anyway, you can find the latest at adaroart.com.

"Live music is one of the basic food groups. Artists are the ingredients. The recipes may be different, but the results are always amazing."

- JC Murphy

"That just made me hungry."

- Brandon Day, Beachcomber Music Awards Nominee

We're expecting a huge turnout for the Ninth Annual Beachcomber Music Awards, coming to Graffiti & the Funky Blues Shack in Destin Monday, **March 6.** Still, we asked our thousands of social media followers who they thought absolutely needed to be present at this year's awards ceremony. Thanks to the three of you that responded.

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This Issue's Contributors

Alicia Leonard ("Of Angels and Actors") is the Assistant Editor of the *DeFuniak Spring Herald Beach Breeze*. When she's not editing, reporting or writing for the oldest business in Walton County or being a mutant for science, she likes to research genetics and quantum physics, play with puppies, eat bacon, drink coffee and be sassy. Her first full-length science fiction novel, *Rooting Grace,* is expected to drop in the fall.

Kellyanne Bartleson (Family-Friendly Events) is the creator of **EmeraldCoastKids.org,** a comprehensive online resource guide for all things kids, teens and families in Walton and Okaloosa counties.

Sean Dietrich (The Last Page) is the author of several fine *Sean of the South* collections, available from Amazon and other leading book retailers. You should buy them all.

Hunter Forbes (Outdoors) is owner and guide at 30A Guide Service and Southern Whitetail Outfitters. He's also a freelance outdoor photographer and lives in Santa Rosa Beach.

Nikki Hedrick ("Cadillac Willy"), from Seagrove Beach, is a photographer and longtime *Beachcomber* contributor. She co-owns 850 Music and Entertainment, and is currently glued to her computer catching up on photo editing.

Samantha Lambert (People) has been back in Florida for five months now and is really enjoying the weather. She loves interviewing people and writing stories for *Beachcomber.* She also enjoys visiting parts of the area that have grown tremendously since she grew up here in the 1970s.

Chris Leavenworth (Commentary) has lived in Northwest Florida his whole life. In addition to his work with Destin Harvest and time spent with family and his dog, Chris enjoys good conversations, reading books, writing, and playing music.

Jane Morgan (Record Roundup) lives in Brooklyn, New York, but grew up in Destin. She is a recent graduate of New York University, where she studied music branding and criticism.

Carmen Stiles (Cover) has been creating cool art under the name "Gustavo" for years. You can see more of her creations at Graffiti & the Funky Blues Shack in Destin.

Jenna Taylor (Outdoors) is an avid outdoorswoman, content creator and writer. Born and raised in Kentucky, she now lives in Santa Rosa Beach.

Debbie Thomas (Wines to Try) is a graduate of Choctawhatchee High School and Florida State University. She is a former high school band director and is now an operating partner at Twisted Grape Cafe & Wine Bar in Shalimar.

Kimberly White (Nonprofit Spotlight) began her journalism career in 1997 and spent the ensuing years working as an editor, reporter, radio newscaster and producer at media outlets across the country. She is an avid reader and lover of all things German shepherd.

Joni Williams (Brew Review) enjoys eating, drinking and hitting the road on the spur of the moment, which is pretty much what she writes about, too.

Opening Remarks CONTINUED...

"I have to be there to help **Austin Jennings** *carry out all of his winnings to the car."*

- Brandon Day (Again)

*"***Patrick Wilson** *(from Cadillac Willy), because he's a Hall of Famer and his bass guitar hangs low. The lower your bass guitar, the cooler you are."*

- Chatham Morgan

"Me, because I'm the new guy."

- Lefty Collins, Who Actually Has a Gig in Orange Beach on Awards Night

My "dream big" and "set your sights high" prompts didn't quite pan out, so I'd like to personally invite the following people:

President Donald Trump. Because you already spend a lot of time in Florida, and *Beachcomber* is not your enemy. Plus, there's a "hotel" down by the Brooks Bridge that loves you and would probably comp you and the entourage some rooms.

Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr. The Fab Two have started recording together again, and what better way to keep those chops sharp than to join in our post-awards show jam session? Our guys know most of the Beatles songbook already.

The Entire Cast of *Hamilton.* Because *Hamilton* is apparently a thing now.

Jim Carrey. I need to interview him for my upcoming *Truman Show* 20th anniversary piece, and I know he'd love to hang with Paul, Ringo and 45.

Anyway, I'm looking forward to seeing these folks, as well as all the nominees, performers, presenters, music fans, bartenders and Brandon Day groupies on what is sure to be the longest night in Beachcomber Music Awards history.

- *Chris*

U of Miami Coach Richt Visits Wounded Veteran Nelson

In a gesture of kindness on his way to be the keynote speaker at the All Sports Association dinner at the Emerald Coast Conference Center, University of Miami head coach **Mark Richt** paid a visit to wounded veteran **Capt. Nathan Nelson.** Nelson is a Building Homes for Heroes recipient of a new home being built by Randy Wise Homes in Santa Rosa Beach.

The Purple Heart decorated retired Air Force Intelligence Officer was severely injured four years ago while serving his third combat deployment to Afghanistan. Taliban forces fired a rocket that impacted just feet from Nelson. The blast broke some of his vertebrae and resulted in paralysis at the C-7 level. Nelson is wheelchair bound.

Today, after significant rehabilitation, Nelson is physically active, healthy and on the go in the community. In fact, he was recently appointed by Congressman Matt Gaetz to serve as the Deputy Director for Military Affairs for the 1st Congressional District of Florida that encompasses Walton County west to Escambia County.

"It was an honor to spend some time with Coach Richt," said Nelson. "He has such a positive spirit, and his generosity in the communities he has been involved with are impressive. Just like Coach Richt expressed, resiliency and faith is key to success. My life now is part of that plan, and it is my intent to share my story and faith with others."

According to **Randy Wise,** owner of Randy Wise Homes: "This is the third Building Homes for Heroes home we have built. We donate our time and are the builder of record to lead the charge in completing Nathan's home in Driftwood Estates in Walton County. The home has just been permitted, and we're about to begin construction with an estimated completion of next fall with a move-in ready home for Nathan, his wife and three-year-old daughter."

"Though there is some subsidy towards the cost of the home at the national level of Building Homes for Heroes, and we have raised some monies locally, we are seeking an additional $100,000 towards the costs of the home," said **Larry Fowler,** BHH Development Coordinator for the Florida Panhandle. "We are actively soliciting cash contributions, as well as in-kind donations of labor and materials for this worthy cause."

Since 2006, Building Homes for Heroes has been at the forefront of making a significant difference in the lives of wounded American service members and their families. The organization gifts mortgage-free homes that meet the needs of the men and women who have selflessly served our country. These homes not only help to remove the families' financial burden, they help to restore individual freedom, and enable veterans to lead more independent and productive civilian lives.

For further information, to make a donation, or to volunteer, call Larry Fowler at 850-502-8908, or email **larry.fowler@buildinghomesforheroes.org.**

- Kay Phelan

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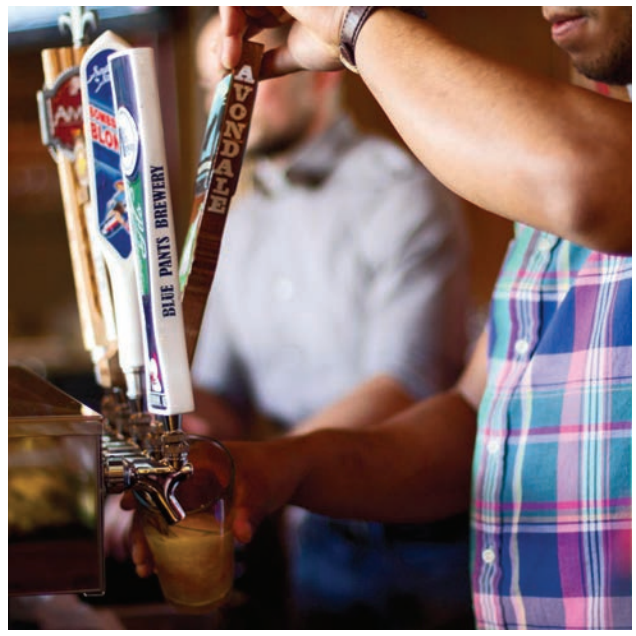

You're Not Gonna Believe This:
A Certain Press Secretary Has a Story to Tell

By Carl Hiaasen, Tribune Content Agency

Anonymously mass-mailed proposal for a blockbuster new book:

Dear (fill in name of editor),

As you devour the explosive details of this book manuscript, you'll understand why I need to withhold my identity at this time.

I currently work at the highest level of government in Washington. My official job description is "press secretary," though my real duties are much more sensitive.

My boss (let's call him "Thump") is an impulsive, vain, petty megalomaniac, but I accepted this job believing I could make him appear thoughtful, caring and poised.

What the hell was I smoking? Every day there's a new train wreck, and I'm the one lying bloody on the tracks.

In only three weeks I've compiled enough shocking "insider" material for a surefire bestseller. It's possible I won't be employed here much longer, so I've been hurriedly working on this memoir in my spare time.

The first chapter kicks off with my job interview, an unforgettable morning. I was summoned to midtown Manhattan and escorted to a bright atrium, where a crew of painters perched on scaffolds was applying industrial bronzer to my future boss.

"Spicer!" he bellowed. No, wait, scratch that.

"Dicer!" he bellowed. "The position of press secretary requires one essential skill: Can you lie and keep a straight face?"

"Excuse me, sir?"

"You'll be my front man with the scum-dog media. Some of the things I'll order you to say will be so outlandishly false and silly that you'll want to burst out laughing. I need somebody who can keep a straight face, no matter what."

"I can do that, sir!"

And thus began my grim descent.

On my first day at work, "Thump" spoke at a large public event. The aerial photographs showed several hundred thousand people there—a very respectable turnout—but the boss told me to report the crowd as a whopping 1.5 million.

Which I did, loyally, without cracking a smile.

He also instructed me to bash the media for questioning the crowd size, so I bashed those suckers big-time. Seriously, I was IN THEIR FACES! It's all laid out in Chapter Two.

Every day was a new battle, and I thought I was doing fine. Every night, standing in front of the bathroom mirror, I'd practice my disdainful stare and scolding tone. For pointers I even studied old tapes of Ron Ziegler, Richard Nixon's press secretary, scoffing at the Watergate break-in.

What I didn't know, until later, was that my boss—who watches like 23 hours of TV a day—was replaying each press conference, rating my performance.

The feedback was crushing. He said I wasn't tough enough, slick enough or dapper enough. I write about this, sadly, in Chapter Seven.

Then a certain Saturday night comedy program featured a sketch about me totally losing my s--- at a press conference. I'd thought it was pretty funny, until Thump hauled me into his office.

"The actor who played you was really a chick!" he hollered.

"What? No way!"

He put on the video and we watched it nine times. He was right—a movie actress named Melissa had been made up to look like me.

No fan of parody, Thump was furious. He said being impersonated by a woman made me look weak, and that made him look weak for hiring me.

I innocently asked if he didn't have more important stuff to worry about, such as Iran's missile tests or his daughter's troubled line of designer handbags. He responded by throwing a golf ball at my head, a scene I chillingly recreate in Chapter Eleven.

Last week was the worst. In defending Thump's views on Muslim immigrants, I was told to mention the terrorist attacks in Boston, San Bernardino and Atlanta.

Except it turns out that the only bomber to go after Atlanta was a Florida-born redneck who targeted the 1996 Olympics—definitely not a jihadist.

Yet, somehow I named Atlanta in three different interviews. So, when the blowback began, I got the brilliant idea to say I was actually referring to the city of Orlando.

Except it turns out the Pulse nightclub shooter isn't an immigrant, either. He was born in New York. The media sure drilled me a new one after that, as you'll see in Chapter Thirteen.

Still I'm hanging in there, faithfully saying whatever whacky made-up stuff the boss wants me to say, regardless of facts. I might not have a job by the time you read this book proposal, but at least I'll go out with a straight face.

Can we work that into the title?

Rick Scott Figures Some Dictators Aren't So Bad If They've Got Money

Florida Gov. Rick Scott is now dabbling in foreign policy, trying to look like a tough guy in advance of his U.S. Senate run in 2018.

He recently warned Florida's seaports that they could lose critical state funding if they make any shipping deals with Cuba. Scott later told reporters: "I don't believe any port in our state, none of them, should be doing business with a brutal dictator."

These would be stirring words if they didn't reek with hypocrisy. The governor has been a gushing supporter of free trade with China, where human rights are trampled daily by the government.

In fact, under Scott, lots of Florida taxpayer dollars have been spent trying to drum up more business with the leadership in Beijing.

Here's a peek at what goes on there, as detailed in Amnesty International's 2015-2016 report:

Start with a "massive nationwide crackdown" on human-rights lawyers, whose homes and offices got raided. More than 240 attorneys and activists were detained or questioned by Chinese state security agents, and 25 were still in custody or "missing" at the time the report was compiled.

In a narrower purge, five women were arrested for "picking quarrels and provoking troubles" because they tried to start a national campaign against sexual harassment. Meanwhile, in the province of Zhejiang, Chinese authorities continued a very public program of destroying churches and tearing down Christian crosses.

And if it's government brutality that really disturbs Gov. Scott, he should be aware that torture remains "widespread" in Chinese detention facilities, according to Amnesty and other groups.

One case cited was that of human-rights lawyer Yu Wensheng, who was abused in a Beijing prison from October 2014 to January 2015. He was handcuffed in a "restraint chair," interrogated for 15 to 16 hours every day and denied sleep.

Horrifically, human-rights investigators also reported last summer that the Chinese government has been harvesting organs from thousands of executed prisoners, including many who were jailed for religious or political reasons.

Of course, China remains a key trade partner of the United States, and owns a jaw-dropping $1.2 trillion of our national debt. For years we have, for

Continued on page 46

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Commentary

Necessary Conversations

By Chris Leavenworth

The extreme division of ideas in the U.S. is a real threat that looms over everything everyone values. I understand why over half the country is outraged right now. I've witnessed—and been on the receiving end of—callous responses from others who are frustrated with this outrage they don't seem to understand.

And that's frustrating.

The inflamed partisan issues that constantly barrage us through mainstream and social media outlets are often presented in a binary manner that keeps everyone at odds. Most people, despite party affiliation, will only recognize two possible simplifications for any trending matter, and won't consider common ground positions that are often void of mainstream exposure.

Some worthy examples of concerns and values shared by people across party lines include improving veteran programs, protecting access to clean water, criminal justice reform, feeding the homeless, and building a better future for our children. Although people do genuinely care about these less controversial topics, they're not always as vocal about them. They're not polarizing.

I'm not suggesting the only issues that should be addressed are common ground ones, but they're great ways to start conversations with people you don't typically agree with. And now more than ever, talking and listening to receptive members from the other camp is something everyone needs to be doing on a local level. Even if the values you hold are upstanding and moral, and your ideas objective and accurate, they're far less useful in an echo chamber.

The best way to engage someone politically is to be mindful of ego and personal emotions. Know your intention for having the conversation. If you derive satisfaction out of proving people wrong or being right, it will reveal itself and make the person less likely to hear what you're trying to tell them. It will also make it harder for you to say the right thing. Likewise, getting defensive about a position, and not keeping a cool head or being unwilling to admit you're wrong, immediately discredits any point trying to be made.

Be ready to be corrected and accept new information. If the person provides a fact or valid scenario about something you haven't considered before, don't argue it tooth and nail. You'll be seen as unreasonable and bullheaded. This is a war of ideas, not a war of egos.

Ask questions and be ready to listen. In many cases, asking the right questions can lead a person to rethink their whole position. More importantly, before reaching any conclusions on your own, apply the same questions to your own values. Be impartial with scrutiny. People are much more receptive to a person displaying objectivity over any other agenda.

Lastly, be respectful and never engage someone who cannot be reasoned with. The average person feels threatened when their worldview has been challenged. You don't have to. Stay vocal, be outraged, engage others and remain kind.

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SoWal High Art Students March into the Coastal Library Spotlight

Art students from South Walton High School will have their work exhibited for the third year going at the Walton County Coastal Branch Library in March.

The works selected for the show were created in the Art I and Art 2D Honors Pre-AP classes, as well as in the AP Art classes for 2D Design, 2D Photography, 3D Design and Drawing.

Artwork ranges from traditional drawings, design interpretations and photographic works to pieces in which the students have taken varied approaches with deconstructions, work manipulations and experimental media.

The students' art teacher is Dr. Vivian Moreira Komando.

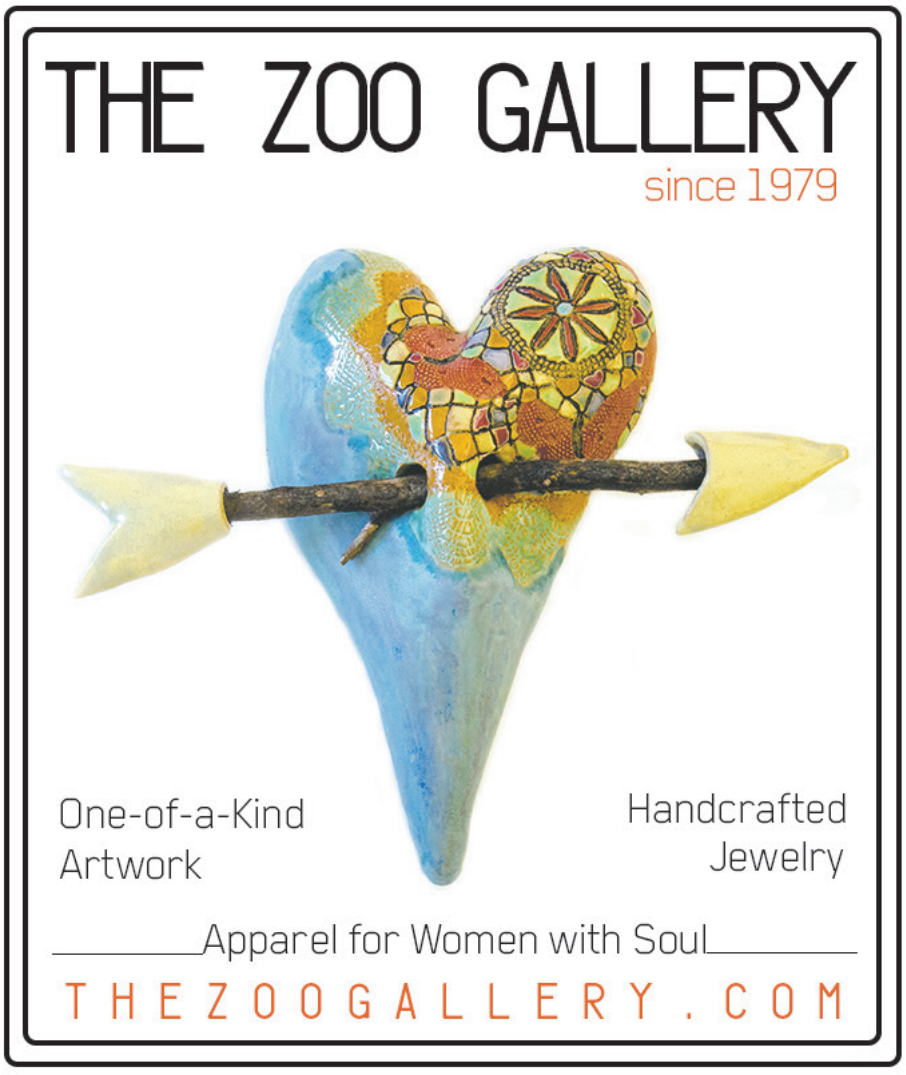
The exhibit runs **March 1-31** The library is located at 437 Greenway Trail in Santa Rosa Beach.

- Cheryl Gray

Drew Weinthal

My Huyen Troung

Rayanne Sumners



ART CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

AMUSE ART STUDIO, 1389 N. CR-393, Santa Rosa Beach. Drawing and acrylic classes. Call 850-660-6560 for more info.

ARTFUL THINGS, 1087 East John Sims Parkway, Niceville. Call 850-729-2600 for more info.

Tuesdays. Oil with Rosalyn O'Grady, 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. Cost is $20 per session plus supplies. Call Ros at 850-865-5343. **rosalynograd y.com.**

Wednesdays. Watercolor with Lou Kaunzinger, 10 a.m.-noon. Cost for four-week session is $80 plus supplies. Call Lou at 850-897-1456.

Thursdays. Landscape Painting with Carol Ann Cain, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Cost is $25 per session plus supplies. Call Carol at 850-543-3575. **carolanncain.com.**

Fridays. Beginning Head Studies with Charlotte Arnold, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Cost is $25 per session plus supplies. Call Charlotte at 850-240-7888. **CharlotteArnoldFineArt.com.**

Saturdays. Kids' Drawing with Sarah Coleman, 10 a.m.-noon. For ages 11-15. Cost is $25 per session plus supplies. Call 310-717-4302 for more info.

ARTS AND DESIGN SOCIETY (ADSO) Classes at the Art Center Gallery, Fort Walton Beach. More info at **artsdesignsociety.org.**

Mondays and Wednesdays. Clay and Pottery Open Studio, 9 a.m.-noon both days and 6:30-9 p.m. Mondays. Beginners welcome. Cost for morning classes with **Pat Basque** is $12 ($10 for ADSO members). Cost for Monday evening class with **Marcy Eady** is $15 ($12 for ADSO members). Materials and firing included.

Tuesdays. Art for Children Ages 6-12, 4-5:30 p.m. **Marcy Eady** teaches about the masters and their styles using principles of basic drawing, painting and sculpture. Media vary each week. Cost per month is $70 ($60 for ADSO members). All supplies included.

Tuesdays. Oil Painting with Dale Gauvin, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Learn the Chiaroscuro technique favored by the old masters. Cost is $85 ($70 for ADSO members).

Tuesdays. Open Studio, 7-9:30 p.m. Bring your own supplies (except clay—no clay, please) and work with other Beachcomberland artists. Cost is $7 ($5 for ADSO members).

Thursdays. Watercolor Painting with Pat Farwell, 9:30 a.m.-noon. Beginner through advanced. Bring your own supplies—list provided in the ADSO office. Cost is $85 per month ($70 for ADSO members).

Fridays. Open Studio, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Same as Tuesdays, but enter through the ADSO office, please.

March 4. Alter Ego in Clay with Marcy Eady, 9-11:30 a.m. Make people sculptures using textured slabs, then glaze 'em. Cost is $40 ($35 for ADSO members). All materials and firing included. Call or visit the ADSO website to sign up.

March 15. Kids' Workshop—Self-Portrait in the Style of Matisse, 9:30-11 a.m. **Marcy Eady** teaches kids ages 6-12 to use shapes and colors as they create "selfies" with cutouts and oil pastels. Cost is $18 ($15 for ADSO members). All materials included.

March 16. Kids' Workshop—Printmaking with Marcy Eady, 9:30-11 a.m. For ages 6-12. Students will learn how to make prints using Styrofoam for printing plates. Cost is $18 ($15 for ADSO members). All materials included.

EMERALD COAST GALLERY & GIFTS, Destin. Call 850-460-8644 to register for classes, and visit **emeraldcoastartgallery.com** for more info.

FULL CIRCLE GALLERY, 29 B Eglin Parkway, Fort Walton Beach. Call 850-362-8041 or visit **fullcirclefwb.com** for more info.

Thursdays. Pottery a la Carte, 6-8 p.m. Cost per session is $35.

HH ARTS, 100 Beal Parkway SW, Fort Walton Beach. Call 850-218-2155 to register or get more info.

March 10. Draw with Joe Adams, 9:30-11 a.m. Cost is $20. Paper and pencils provided, but you may bring your own H and B pencils. Reservations and payment due by **March 7.**

THE SHARD SHOP in the Shops of Grayton, Grayton Beach. ShardWorx is a new way of making art with glass and resin on a painted surface. Open Mon.-Sat., 9:15 a.m.-4 p.m. Classes daily. Adult classes, 9:30 a.m. All ages classes at 11 a.m., 12:45 and 2:15 p.m. Classes last about an hour, and all materials are provided. Artwork is ready the day after class. All skill levels welcome. Adults start at $85, kids at $40. Sign up online at **ShardShop.com** or call 850-231-0544.

WALTON COUNTY COASTAL BRANCH LIBRARY, 437 Greenway Trail, Santa Rosa Beach. Call 850-267-2809 or visit **youseemore.com/walton.**

Feb. 21, March 7 and 14. FREE Basic Drawing Techniques Class for Adults with Linda Barton. Bring lots of sketch paper, regular pencils and sharpener. No reservations required.

ART EVENTS

THROUGH FEB. 25. JOAN VIENOT AT THE FOSTER GALLERY, SANDESTIN
Vienot is one of 15 artists in the winter rotation at the Market Shops gallery managed by the Cultural Arts Alliance of Walton County. More at **joanvienot.com.**

THROUGH FEB. 28. ARTS AND DESIGN SOCIETY (ADSO) WINDOW GALLERY DISPLAY AT THE ART CENTER GALLERY, FORT WALTON BEACH
The February spotlight shines on multitalented, award-winning fine artist **Hanna Joensuu.**

THROUGH FEB. 28. FEBRUARY ARTIST OF THE MONTH FRED EARL SHIRLEY AT 45 CENTRAL WINE BAR, SEASIDE
Retired navy pilot and father of Chef Jim Shirley specializes in nautical watercolor paintings. More at **fortyfivecentral.com.**

THROUGH FEB. 28. JACQUELINE CAMPBELL EXHIBIT AT DESTIN LIBRARY
Campbell is a self-taught artist and specializes in watercolor and oriental brush. Call 850-837-8572 for more info.

THROUGH FEB. 28. ARTIST OF THE MONTH CHERYL GRAY AT WALTON COUNTY COASTAL BRANCH LIBRARY, SANTA ROSA BEACH
Cheryl, who always fills us in on the library's featured artists, finally gets her moment in the spotlight.

THROUGH MARCH 3. VAN PORTER STUDENT ART SHOW AT THE ART CENTER GALLERY, FORT WALTON BEACH
Art by students in grades 8-12. Reception Thursday, **Feb. 23,** 5-7 p.m. More info at **artsdesignsociety.org,** or call 850-244-1271.

OPENS MARCH 1. ARTIST OF THE MONTH JANETTE THOMAS AT HH ARTS, FORT WALTON BEACH
Thomas recently relocated from New York and specializes in acrylic and collage. Runs through **March 31.** Reception Friday, **March 17,** 6-8 p.m. The gallery is located at 100 Beal Parkway SW.

OPENS MARCH 1. SOUTH WALTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ART AT WALTON COUNTY COASTAL BRANCH LIBRARY, SANTA ROSA BEACH
Enjoy a wide variety of creations by **Dr. Vivian Moreira Komando's** talented students. Runs through **March 31.**

MARCH 11. ADSO FUNDRAISING COOKOUT AT THE ART CENTER GALLERY, FORT WALTON BEACH
Starting at 11 a.m., enjoy burgers, dogs, chips, cookies and live music from **Joe Weiss** in the Art Center's newly expanded cookout. Cost is $12, with proceeds going toward the development of the courtyard into a space for functions and classes.

ART GALLERIES

ADARO ART is a new gallery with works from 2015 South Walton Artist of the Year **Juan Francisco Adaro,** as well as other well-known local and international artists. Located in the Uptown Shops of Grayton on Scenic Highway 30A next to Another Broken Egg Café. Open Tue.-Sun., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 51-1 Uptown Grayton Circle, Grayton Beach, 561- 985-5767. Email **adaro.art@gmail.com** for more info. **www.adaro.art.com.**

AMUSE ART STUDIO Acrylic paintings, watercolors and gifts. Owner and artist **Linda Barton** has a Master's Degree in Art Education. Open 2-6 p.m. daily except Wednesdays. 1389 N. CR-393, Santa Rosa Beach, 850-660-6560 or 250-901-0718. Check out more at **amuseartstudio.com.**

ARTFUL THINGS Original oils, watercolors and acrylics, as well as prints and note cards by local artists. Art classes, supplies and custom framing available. 1087 John Sims Pkwy., Niceville, 850-729-2600. **www.artfulthings.net.**

ARTS AND DESIGN SOCIETY Features art shows by local and regional artists. Open afternoons Tuesday through Saturday. Shows change monthly. Art classes and workshops in various media. 17 First Street SE, Fort Walton Beach. 850-244-1271. **www.artsdesignsociety.org**.

CARA ROY ARTWORKS Florida tropicals, watercolors, posters of all kinds, note cards, original artworks and gift items. Available at Fusion Art Glass Gallery in Seaside and Grand Boulevard at Sandestin. **www.cararoyartworks.com.**

EMERALD COAST GALLERY & GIFTS features a plethora of one-of-a-kind paintings, handcrafted jewelry, handmade furniture, glass art, prints, home décor and gifts from over 30 local and area artists. Check online at **emeraldcoastartgallery.com** for classes and workshop schedules. Classes are given by gallery owners **Claire Gagne** and **Jennifer Viaene** and other featured artists in the gallery. Classes include acrylic painting, watercolor, mosaic glass and shard glass. Come on in and have some fun! Gallery is located in the McGuire's Shopping Plaza in Destin between Boca Boutique and McGuire's Sushi. 850-460-8644.

FULL CIRCLE GALLERY AND STUDIO is a contemporary and inspirational art space. We feature the works of regional artists in our gallery and offer an array of art classes with award-winning artists. We also have Paint Your Own Pottery. Come get creative with us! Located at 29B Eglin Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach, 850-362-8041. **www.fullcirclefwb.com.**

G & CO. GALLERY (formerly Geana's Art Gallery) Located in City Market, Destin. An exciting art gallery and full service frame and mirror shop offering a large selection of local, regional and international artists ranging from local photography to original fine art. Quality and value is second to none. We ship worldwide. 850-650-0779. **www.GAndCoGallery.com.**

HH ARTS is a new gallery offering works for sale from local artists in all mediums. There are many award-winning artists displayed in oil, acrylic, encaustic, collage, clay, handmade candles, and handmade jewelry designs in glass, leather and Victorian style. Studio space available for artists at reasonable rates. An outdoor area is also available for plein aire painting or classes, with lighting and overhead covering. There will be classes offered for children and adults. Located at 100 Beal Parkway SW, Fort Walton Beach (three blocks off 98, across from Troy University). Open Tue.-Sat., 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. For more info, call 850-218-2155 and "like" HH Arts on Facebook.

MARY HONG GALLERY Located next to the Shard Shop in the Shops of Grayton. Mary Hong is the 2014 South Walton Artist of the Year and has been featured in over 10 publications, as well as on the Golf Channel's *Morning Drive Show* and *Emeril's Florida* TV show. Mary's take on glass art incorporates the use of repurposed glass on painted canvas. She and her team offer classes at the Shard Shop located adjacent to her gallery. There is an extensive retail section full of thousands of pounds of glorious glass and art kits to take your ShardWorx on the go. We host parties and team events, too. Gallery is open Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sundays, noon-5 p.m. 26 Logan Lane, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1416. **MaryHongStudio.com.**

MATTIE KELLY ART GALLERIES AT NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE
The Arts Center Galleries at Northwest Florida State College in Niceville encompass two galleries showcasing 20 different international, national and regional exhibitions yearly, which are unique to this region. Viewing hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Visit **www.mattiekellyartscenter.org** or call 850-729-6044.

THE ZOO GALLERY Created in 1979. Locally owned small business. We focus on quality, handcrafted work by hardworking artists. Our galleries showcase an eclectic range of curated artwork from all over the country, a jewelry collection like no other, plus unique clothing lines for women with soul. We keep a sense of wonder. We stand out from the herd. Located in Grayton Beach across from the Red Bar and in Grand Boulevard at Sandestin. **#standoutfromtheherd thezoogallery.com**

CALL TO ARTISTS

Arts and Design Society (ADSO) "Retro Time Warp" Show open to all artists in any media. Artwork must be inspired by the '50s, '60s or '70s. Cash awards. Turn-in dates are Saturday, **March 4,** 1-4 p.m., and Monday, **March 6,** 9 a.m.-noon. Cost to enter is $35 for two pieces ($25 for ADSO members). For more info, call 850-244-1271 or visit **artsdesignsociety.org.**

Cultural Arts Alliance of Walton County invites artists to apply to exhibit in the 29th Annual ArtsQuest Fine Arts Festival, set for **May 13 and 14** at Grand Boulevard, Sandestin. Deadline is **March 1—**apply at **Zapplication.org.** More info at **CulturalArtsAlliance.com.**

#BEACHCOMBERDESTIN

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS AND GET FEATURED HERE!

@850musicentertainment
Site of the Ninth Ever Beachcomber Music Awards, by our own Nikki H. See you Monday, March 6.

@themaymay2
Four-leggers enjoy the Destin sunset at Henderson Beach State Park.

@cartoonsbydeano
Another beautiful (and unfiltered) Beachcomberland sunset. We understand Deano's a pretty good illustrator, too.

@leloupwest
Artist Suzanne Leloup-West's "Blooms of Imagination."

@mcgoo_222
Sunday Funday on the beaches of South Walton.

@khkdestin
The Destin Harbor, as seen by our friends at Kitty Hawk Kites.

instagram.com/beachcomberdestin

Call in Sick Tuesday, March 7...
Ninth Ever Beachcomber Music Awards
Monday, March 6, at Destin's Funky Blues Shack

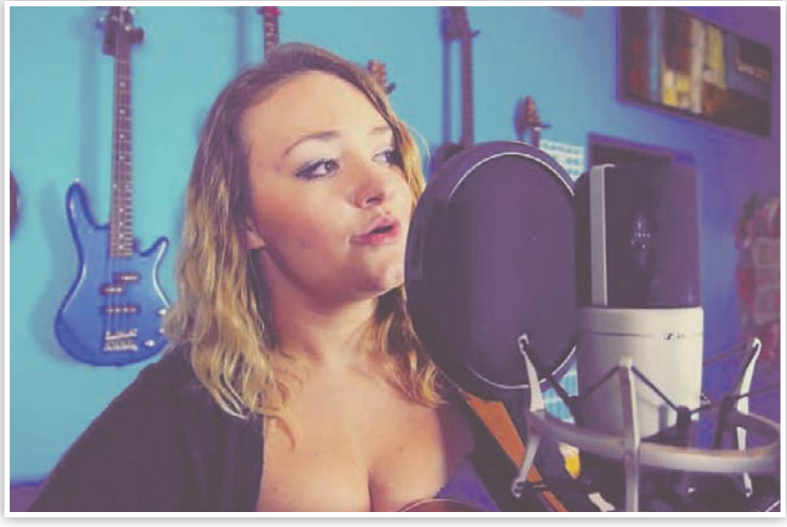
By Chris Manson

The Ninth Ever Beachcomber Awards are happening Monday, **March 6,** at Graffiti & the Funky Blues Shack in Destin starting around 6:30 p.m. Winners will be announced from the top three nominees in each category (a few have four nominees due to ties), as voted on by *Beachcomber* readers in our well-publicized online poll.

The event will include live performances by **Finga FAYA, Nik Flagstar and His Dirty Mangy Dogs, Hope Given and Her Band, Kickstand Jenny** and **The Matt McCarty Quintet.** Best New Artist nominees **The Moon Lagoons** will host a post-awards jam.

Confirmed presenters are listed below, along with random comments. Anyone interested in presenting any unclaimed categories, email me at **chris@beachcomberdestin.com** immediately.

Congratulations to all of this year's nominees.



First-time Beachcomber Music Awards nominee Cassidy Dickens is up for Best Female Vocalist, Best Singer-Songwriter, Album of the Year and Best Original Song.

Photo borrowed from Cassidy Dickens' Facebook page.

Kickstand Jenny are up for eight awards this year, and guitarist Preston Morelock might have made the cut if someone had remembered to submit his name. The band is set to perform at our show, along with Hope Given and Her Band, Nik Flagstar and His Dirty Mangy Dogs, Finga FAYA, the Matt McCarty Quintet and the Moon Lagoons.

BEST PERCUSSIONIST
PRESENTED BY TED COBENA

(New Category)
Louis Antoon
Steve Ferry
Milton Stucker Jr.

BEST TRIBUTE ACT

(New Category)
Ron Adams – Shadow of the King
Emerald Coast Blues Brothers
RoshamBeatles

MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR
PRESENTED BY THIS YEAR'S HALL OF FAME WINNER

Austin Jennings
Cheryl Jones
Stuart Redd

BEST BAND

Black Eyed Blonde
Heritage
Kickstand Jenny

BEST SOLO ARTIST

Chris Alvarado
Brandon Day
Bri Wehner

BEST MALE VOCALIST
PRESENTED BY HOPE GIVEN

Brandon Day
Charles Estes
Austin Jennings

BEST FEMALE VOCALIST
PRESENTED BY AUSTIN JENNINGS

Cassidy Dickens
Cheryl Jones
Bri Wehner

BEST DUO

Flash Flood Duo
Will & Linda Pleasants
The Wide Open

BEST GUITARIST
PRESENTED BY BLUE LEW

Brandon Day
Mike Ingram
Scott Rockwood

BEST BASSIST

Dan Collins
Benghazi Gresham
Chris McCombs

BEST KEYBOARDIST

Metz Barnes
Joe Fingas
Cheryl Jones

BEST DRUMMER

Isaac Eady
Will Russo
AJ Sipos

BEST HORN PLAYER
Al Alvarado
Ike Bartley
Matt McCarty

BEST FIDDLE-VIOLIN PLAYER
Jessica Heit
Sue Kittredge
Matt Miller

BEST HARMONICA PLAYER
Jim Couch
Allen Rayfield
JAB Wilson
"If I win, I'm giving my award to JAB Wilson," Jim Couch was recently overheard saying.

BEST MANDOLIN PLAYER
Ben Parsons
Balder Saunders
Neil Sebree

BEST SINGER-SONGWRITER
PRESENTED BY THE GOOD LOOKINGS
Season Ammons
Cassidy Dickens
Bri Wehner
Girl power! For the first time ever (or since we can remember), all the singer-songwriter nominees are women.

BEST ALTERNATIVE ARTIST
PRESENTED BY STRANGE TANG
Astral Lite
Nik Flagstar and His Dirty Mangy Dogs
The Owsley Brothers

BEST AMERICANA ARTIST
Dread Clampitt
Schatzi + the String Boffin
The Wide Open

BEST BLUES ARTIST
Blue Lew
Boukou Groove
Finga FAYA

BEST CHRISTIAN GOSPEL-ARTIST
Elisabeth Coats
Faith Assembly Church Band
Lauren Veach

BEST COMEDY ARTIST
Act4Murder
Emerald Coast Theatre Company Improv Troupe
Mark Labarge
Full disclosure—Beachcomber *Editor Chris Manson occasionally performs with the Act4Murder troupe.*

BEST COUNTRY ARTIST
Austin Jennings
Luke Langford and the 331 South Band
Jacob Mohr

BEST COVER BAND OR SOLO ACT
Black Eyed Blonde
Cadillac Willy
Kickstand Jenny

BEST DANCE BAND
Black Eyed Blonde
Cadillac Willy
Hubba Hubba

BEST DJ
DJ Chubby
DJ/VJ Doc Roc
DJ Vladi

BEST FOLK ARTIST
Continuum
Mari Gleason
The Steenos

BEST JAM BAND
Cadillac Willy
Heritage
New Earth Army

BEST JAZZ ARTIST
Al Alvarado
Jones and Company
The Red Bar Jazz Band

BEST RAP/HIP-HOP ARTIST
Chris Carter
Florida J
Strange Tang

BEST R&B-SOUL ARTIST
Boukou Groove
Jones and Company
Okaloosa Sound

BEST REGGAE ARTIST
Heritage
Sway Jah Vu
Tribe Zion

BEST ROCK ARTIST
Cadillac Willy
Hotel Oscar
Kickstand Jenny

ALBUM OF THE YEAR
PRESENTED BY CHELSEA FROM Q-92 RADIO
Cassidy Dickens, *Ghosts*
Kickstand Jenny, *Best of Vol. 1*
Bri Wehner, *Nothing But Sunshine*
Technically, albums released between Nov.2015 and Oct. 2016.

BEST ORIGINAL SONG
PRESENTED BY MARC HARRIS
Cassidy Dickens, "The Next Five Years"
Kickstand Jenny, "Why"
Bri Wehner, "Nothing But Sunshine"

BEST INSTRUMENTALIST
PRESENTED BY JOHNNY PALMER
Sean Dietrich
Isaac Eady
Franko "Washboard" Jackson

BEST LIVE MUSIC VENUE
PRESENTED BY TIM & RUSTY MORINELLI
AJ's, Destin
Green Door Music Hall, Fort Walton Beach
30A Songwriter Music & Coffee, Santa Rosa Beach

BEST MUSIC EVENT OF 2016
Okaloosa RevFest
Rock for a Cure
30A Locals Last Stand
30A Songwriters Festival

BEST MUSIC VIDEO
Continuum, "Black and Blue"
Bill Garrett, "America the Beautiful"
Strange Tang, "God Willing"

Best Live Music Venue 30A Songwriter Music and Coffee proprietors Josette Rhodes and Shannon Ireland, who will hopefully take the night off to attend the big event.

BEST LATIN ARTIST
Amid
Roberto Padron
Sal Salaz

BEST METAL ARTIST
Accursed Creator
Dark Star Coven
Kultus
Rainey's Revenge

BEST PUNK ARTIST
PRESENTED BY BILL GARRETT
Analogue Collective
Astral Lite
Nik Flagstar and His Dirty Mangy Dogs

BEST CLASSICAL ARTIST
Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra
Katie Ott
Sinfonia Gulf Coast

BEST NEW ARTIST
PRESENTED BY ALISSA STEFFENS
Mari Gleason
The Lagoons
Dino Lourdi
The Lagoons have since rechristened themselves the Moon Lagoons.

HALL OF FAME
PRESENTED BY CADILLAC WILLY
Presented to musicians that have made a significant impact on the Emerald Coast music scene for more than a decade. Previous honorees include **Duke Bardwell, Jones and Company, Bill Garrett, Franko "Washboard" Jackson, Donnie Sundal, "Smilin'" Fritz Froeschner, Dread Clampitt** and **Cadillac Willy.**
Doug "Dr. D" Dickerson
Joe Fingas
Nik Flagstar
Chris Hayes

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL NONPROFITS

Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge

Rescuing and Rehabilitating All Types of Native Florida Life
ecwildliferefuge.com

Sexy + 17 – Beachcomber Music Awards Hall of Famers Cadillac Willy

Members of Cadillac Willy accept the Hall of Fame award at the 2016 Beachcomber Music Awards.

Photo by Nikki Hedrick.

By Nikki Hedrick

Seventeen years.

As much as I love our part of the world, it has always lent itself to being a place people move to and move from. To maintain much of anything here for 17 years deserves recognition, and when it is a band that has forged ahead for close to two decades, the area takes notice.

Current Cadillac Willy members are **Louie Antoon** (percussion), **Metz Barnes** (vocals, keys), **Clayton "Bubba" Bonjean** (guitar), **Shawn "Shack Attack" Shackelford** (drums), **John David Sullivan** (guitar), and **Capt. Patrick Wilson** (bass, pedal steel).

The very first seeds of Cadillac Willy were planted while Bonjean and Wilson bonded over Widespread Panic songs. The two played together while attending college in Oxford, Mississippi, and then reconnected and began playing for friends at a house Wilson had in downtown Destin.

Slowly, the project earned the nickname Widespread Patrick, and the house became a party spot.

The story should stop there, as Wilson was splitting his time between Destin and Montgomery, Alabama. But before that happened, Wilson connected Antoon with Bonjean, and the beginnings of the band took shape.

Antoon was playing with Salty Dog, but being able to play the jam band music he loved was an exciting prospect. Antoon and Bonjean began recording music, with Allman Brothers bassist David Goldflies as part of the process. They knew something was there, and recruited Josh Pace for drums and vocals. Then they called Wilson up to see if he would be interested in playing bass.

Bonjean's cousin John David Sullivan finished out the first Cadillac Willy lineup and is credited for the band's name origins. "When we started, John David told us about an old store where you can get a beer in a brown paper bag outside of Memphis," says Bonjean. "He always thought that the store's name would be a great name of the band."

In 2000, Cadillac Willy was officially born.

They took the handful of songs they learned, and played every Destin area bar and club they could. Their extended breaks—filled with handpicked jam music—helped create a loyal following. "It was a big party," says Bonjean.

After a couple years, lineup changes became part of the Cadillac Willy story. Fill-in musicians were often needed, meaning a wide collection of local musicians have been a part of the band's legacy. Many are considered honorary members.

Even when Bonjean temporarily stepped away from the project to focus on starting a family, Antoon and Wilson kept the band alive.

Around 2007, the band got a reboot as both Barnes and Shackelford joined the project as full-time members.

Barnes answered a Craiglist ad and found himself invited to a Cadillac Willy gig at Hog's Breath a few days later. There, his feet were put to the fire, and he performed a couple songs on the spot. "For the first few months, I didn't know," says Barnes of his integration as an official band member. "But we're still going strong."

In 17 years, Cadillac Willy has been the house band at Harbor Docks, opened for Edgar Winter and Robby Krieger of the Doors, outlived many area hotspots, and won a slew of local awards including Beachcomber Music Awards Hall of Fame in 2016. They don't show signs of stopping. Wilson is even hopeful that his son will take his spot in the band someday.

"The Cadillac Willy band has kind of evolved, and I don't think you can kill it," says Bonjean with a laugh. But he might be right—the band formed from its members' love of jam bands, and that love keeps them going even in the face of lineup changes and a shifting music scene.

Discover more, including information about the band's May 26 Widespread Panic tribute show in Santa Rosa Beach, at **cadillacwilly.com.** Cadillac Willy will present this year's Beachcomber Music Awards Hall of Fame honors Monday, **March 6,** at Graffiti & the Funky Blues Shack in Destin.

Beachcomber Profiles* — Blue Lew Hogue

Nine years ago, Blue Lew was instrumental (pun intended) in launching the Beachcomber Music Awards. He's a past winner for Best Blues Artist and nominated again this year. Blue Lew will present the award for Best Guitarist at the Ninth Ever Beachcomber Music Awards Monday, **March 6,** *at Graffiti & the Funky Blues Shack in Destin.*

HOMETOWN: Originally from Spring Hill, Tennessee. I moved to Miramar Beach in 1995 and have been here ever since.

AGE: Too damn old to be working so damn hard!

PROFESSION: Handyman-foreman for Swift Construction for four years now.

HOBBIES: Enjoying sunrises at the beach and growing things in my backyard, where I enjoy them with my lovely wife Nora and our dog Tupelo.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Remodeling and building multimillion-dollar homes. In my spare time, Nora and I have written some really cool songs—not yet published.

PROFILE: I'm a singer-songwriter who loves to play the blues and all forms of Americana music. I met my wife Nora—a 20-year vet of the New Orleans music scene—in Miramar Beach in 1995. We married in the spring of 1997 and have performed to local audiences as Lew & Nora, Livin' Large, the Loco Locals, Blue Lew's Groove, the Blue Lew and Nora Show, and now, Blue Lew's Rhythm & Dues.

QUOTE: "It is what it is, and it ain't what it ain't."

FAVORITE FREE PUBLICATION: Love reading *Beachcomber!*

** Inspired by the late, great* Creem *magazine.*

Music > Beachcomber's Record Roundup

Musicians - send your CDs, vinyl and/or cassettes to Beachcomber, P.O. Box 5707, Destin, FL 32540-5707. Email MP3s and streaming links to chris@beachcomberdestin.com.

Black Star Riders

Heavy Fire

Nuclear Blast

Born from Thin Lizzy, the Riders straddle that magical place of rock nostalgia and modern flair. This isn't quite uncharted musical territory, but the arena swagger and '70s power chords pave the way to a formidable album. Standouts include the Lizzyfied "True Blue Kid" and southern soul of "Cold War Love."

- Nikki Hedrick

Brightside

Heart Science

Independent

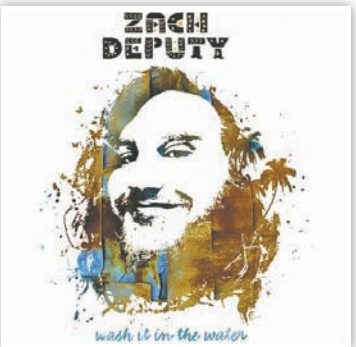
Tallahassee band hits all the right notes with their latest indie pop release. Brightside crafts a more mature, polished sound than on previous efforts, proving they're now poised to make a giant splash beyond regional markets. Catchy, uptempo, and deserving of a listen.

- Nikki Hedrick

Zach Deputy

Wash It in the Water

Organic Soul



Feel good music that sparkles. Built from a melting pot of funk, Cajun, soul, reggae, hip-hop and whatever else strikes Deputy's fancy to create his own genre. And what a genre it is, given that he's a one-man band. Deputy's clear voice and sharp lyrics is the connecting puzzle piece from the soulful tunes to the energetic jams. Deputy headlines the Bojamz music festival **March 26** at Boshamps in Destin.

- Nikki Hedrick

Kehlani

SweetSexySavage

Atlantic

The debut album from 21-year-old R&B powerhouse Kehlani is a work of unrelenting female empowerment. She has created a brand of infectious major label pop that refuses to play by the rules of the mainstream or perform the stereotype of the young woman pining over a lost love. Kehlani instead takes her vulnerabilities and mistakes in relationships and turns them into an untouchable confidence. She does serious, mature self-reflecting on love and lust through crooning soul ballads and bouncy pop hits, ultimately coming out on top and asserting the multiplicity of femininity and sexuality.

- Jane Morgan

Miles Mosley

Uprising

Alpha Pup Records/World Galaxy

On *Uprising,* upright bassist and bandleader Mosley teams up with WCGD (West Coast Get Down), a collective he co-founded with such notables as Kamasi Washington and Dontae Winslow, among others. Mosley was reportedly named for that other Miles guy. *Uprising*, while not specifically a tribute to Davis, spiritually incorporates the funk/fusion and sheer pressure-cooked swagger of Mosley's namesake and his latter-day releases. You might also catch a hint of Motown, reggae and who knows what else. There's no set order to listening to the 11 tracks—just touch "random" and let Mosley and company pin your ears back.

- Bruce Collier

Nicholas Payton

Afro-Caribbean Mixtape

Paytone/Ropeadope Records

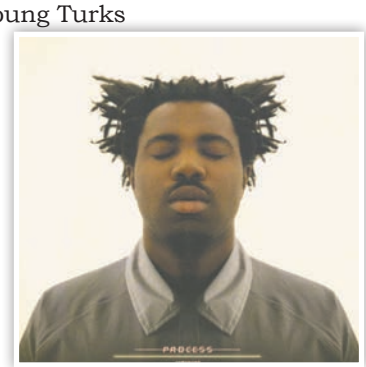
New Orleans trumpeter and socio-cultural provocateur Payton's *Afro-Caribbean Mixtape* gives him a chance to wear both hats. The 22 tracks incorporate both music and the spoken word, resulting in a narrative running commentary of the artist's free-associated observations, set over and against a moody jazz background. Whether you agree with Payton's personal reflections or not, his playing, which jumps nimbly from cool jazz to insistent hard bop (and elsewhere), speaks for itself. This is as much a work of theatre as music. With Payton here are Vicente Archer (bass), Joe Dyson (drums), Daniel Sadownick (percussion) and DJ Lady Fingaz.

- Bruce Collier

Sampha

Process

Young Turks



Sampha, the soulful British vocalist and experimental producer, made a name for himself collaborating on stunning pop songs with artists including Drake, Beyonce and Solange. With his debut solo album, he is finally ready to tell his own story. *Process* is an album of hurting and healing, as Sampha works through familial death, anxiety and romantic yearning. His intricate production is as emotive as his confessional lyrics and warbling soprano that transforms from a whisper to a yelp to a declaration. The album embodies its title as noun and verb, as Sampha processes grief and accepts love and loss as parts of his own process, both artistic and emotional.

- Jane Morgan

Sleater-Kinney

Live in Paris

Sub Pop

All the evidence you need that these ladies are the greatest rock 'n roll band of the last decade and a half.

- Chris Manson

Starset

Vessels

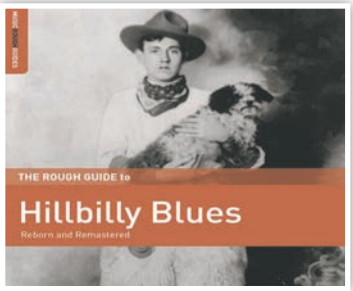
Razor & Tie

Led by an electrical engineer with a PhD and named for a scientific society, Starset is known for their use of vocoders and space suits. It may seem Devo gimmicky, but Starset proved their staying power when "My Demons" (from 2014's *Transmissions*) broke a *Billboard* record for weeks on the charts. *Vessels* has already earned top rankings on Amazon, with the dreamy, progressive "Monster" leading the way. Other standouts include the lyrical and lovely "Ricochet" and "Bringing It Down," as well as the melodic, beat-driven "Back to Earth"—good enough to keep Starset out of one hit wonderland.

- Joni Williams

The Rough Guide to Hillbilly Blues

World Music Network



Excellent compilation of backwoods bluesmen, with only two of the 25—Charlie Poole and Jimmie Rodgers—having ever appeared anywhere near my radar. Hot playing throughout, and I'm ready to grab my gitfiddle and learn Walter Smith's "The Cat's Got the Measles and the Dog's Got the Whooping Cough." And maybe Dick Justice's "Cocaine."

- Chris Manson

Live Music

Musicians and venues: Email **chris@beachcomberdestin.com** to have your gigs listed here.

THURSDAY, FEB. 23

AJ'S OYSTER SHANTY, Okaloosa Island
BT TURNER, 6 p.m.

CAMILLE'S, Destin
DEAN SADOWSKI, 3-5 p.m.

FUDPUCKER'S, Okaloosa Island, fudpucker.com
DOWNBEAT JAZZ ORCHESTRA, 7 p.m.

FUNKY BLUES SHACK, Destin, 850-424-6650
POST PLUTO, 9 p.m.

GROWLER GARAGE, Santa Rosa Beach
MAX McCANN with FUNKY TED, 5-8 p.m.

HOG'S BREATH, Destin
BRYAN BLUDWORTH, 5-9 p.m.

LA PLAYA, Santa Rosa Beach
FORREST WILLIAMS BAND, 7-10 p.m.
Ladies Night

LUCY BUFFETT'S LULU'S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin
HOWLIN' JACK, 5 p.m.

OLD FLORIDA FISH HOUSE, Seagrove Beach
CHUCK LAWSON, 5-7 p.m.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.

REDD'S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach
REDD, THE SINGING BARTENDER

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin, www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.

SAENGER THEATRE, Pensacola
KOUNTRY WAYNE, 7:30 p.m.

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach, www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR'S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-9 p.m.

THE TIPSY PIG, Fort Walton Beach
SPUTZY, 7 p.m.

VILLAGE OF BAYTOWNE WHARF, Sandestin, baytownewharf.com
COCONUT RADIO, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 24

BRIC A BRAC, Destin
JONES & COMPANY

DOC'S OYSTER BAR, Valparaiso
BT TURNER, 7 p.m.

EL JALISCO, Destin Commons
THE MOON LAGOONS, 3-7 p.m.
An acoustic performance from the Beachcomber Music Awards Best New Artist nominees.
AL ALVARADO, 6-9 p.m.

FOKKER'S PUB, Fort Walton Beach, 850-244-6666
JORDAN BALLANTYNE, 6-10 p.m.

FUNKY BLUES SHACK, Destin, 850-424-6650
THE MOON LAGOONS, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

GRAYTON BEER COMPANY TAPROOM, Santa Rosa Beach
HERITAGE, 7 p.m.

GREEN DOOR MUSIC HALL, Fort Walton Beach
BERNARDUS

GROWLER GARAGE, Santa Rosa Beach
TANNERY GRAY, 5-8 p.m.

HOG'S BREATH, Destin
JIM COUCH, 5-9 p.m.
CONTINUUM, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

LOS CABOS MEXICAN GRILL, Navarre
CHRISTINE ALCONCEL, 6 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT'S LULU'S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin
COCONUT RADIO, 5 p.m.

MODICA MARKET, Seaside, www.modicamarket.com
THE STEENOS, 5-7 p.m.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin, www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach, www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR'S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-10 p.m.

30A SONGWRITER MUSIC AND COFFEE, Santa Rosa Beach, www.30asongwriterradio.com
Friday Night Originals with MARI GLEASON, HEATHER LAVEAUX and More, 7-9 p.m.

THE TIPSY PIG, Fort Walton Beach
DUENDE, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 25

AJ'S ON THE BAYOU, Fort Walton Beach
BT TURNER, 6 p.m.

THE BAY, Santa Rosa Beach
CRAWFISH MAX AND THE MO-SEE-DOS, Noon-2 p.m.
LUKE LANGFORD AND 331 SOUTH, 2-5 p.m.
Mardi Gras party with FREE red beans and rice and $5 Hurricanes. Crawfish Max is Beachcomber Music Award-nominated Max McCann.

BRIC A BRAC, Destin
COCONUT RADIO, 6 p.m.

CHIRINGO, Santa Rosa Beach
MARI GLEASON, 1 p.m.

FUNKY BLUES SHACK, Destin, 850-424-6650
BANK WALKERS, 9 p.m.

GREEN DOOR MUSIC HALL, Fort Walton Beach
MEGAN JEAN & THE KFB – CASSIDY DICKENS, 9 p.m.

HOG'S BREATH, Destin
BO ADAMS, 6-10 p.m.

THE PORCH, Miramar Beach
EL DUB, 8 p.m.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.

REDD'S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach
REDD, THE SINGING BARTENDER

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin, www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach, www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR'S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-10 p.m.

Live Music Review

New Earth Army

Graffiti & the Funky Blues Shack, Destin

Photo by Nikki Hedrick.

Part of what makes New Earth Army so special is their resiliency and continued commitment to original music. The current band lineup is **Michael Flatau** on bass, **Chavis Hobbs** on guitar, **Melissa Joiner** on vocals, **Matt McCarty** on sax, and **Breyson Boogie Robinson** on drums.

This was my first show at the new Funky Blues Shack space in Destin, and I was able to squeeze in early enough to stuff my face with perfectly cooked pasta before the band did their sound check. Owner Chuck Stiles greeted everyone at the front door, and the room was alive with conversation and celebrations.

To accommodate the lingering dinner crowd, NEA eased into their first set. Joiner started with an acoustic guitar, and the band's audio levels stayed low until the dancers made their way to the front.

With a disco ball spinning overhead, feet shimmied across the floor as Hobbs' trademark guitar faces (those who have seen him live will understand) signaled the end of the chill set.

As tie-dyed wait staff hustled to keep everything running smoothly, the kitchen continued to pump out amazing-smelling small plates, and the beer began to flow. Funky's predominantly red lights were dimmed, and the music's volume inched further up to appease the late night crowd.

NEA played a handful of originals, and they transformed covers into songs the lineup could chew on. Standouts included a jazzy rendition of a Bill Withers favorite, a mashup that took a fun turn, and Robinson's eye-turning drum solo.

Whether you claim a chair or a spot on the dance floor in front of the band, New Earth Army have proven their staying power on the local music scene.

- Nikki Hedrick

Live Music

SMILEY'S BAR, Fort Walton Beach
Smiley's Mardi Gras Fest & Heavy Metal Parking Lot with DARK STAR COVEN – RUINS OF TRUTH – GRIMWAR – CANNABYSS – SOUTHERN FALLOUT and More ($10)
Doors open at 2 p.m. Music at 4.

THE TIPSY PIG, Fort Walton Beach
TRACY BYRD BAND, 7 p.m.

TREBEACHE, Santa Rosa Beach
THE FUNK DISCIPLES, 8 p.m.

UPTOWN STATION, Fort Walton Beach
CONTINUUM, 1 p.m.
The Beachcomber Music Award winners (and 2017 nominees) bring the tunes to the annual Beer Fest.

SUNDAY, FEB. 26

AJ'S, Destin
JONES & COMPANY, 4-8 p.m.

BOSHAMPS, Destin
CONTINUUM, 3 p.m.

CAMILLE'S, Destin
DEAN SADOWSKI, 10 a.m.-Noon

FUNKY BLUES SHACK, Destin, 850-424-6650
MATT McCARTY's Jazz Jam, 7-10 p.m.

GREEN DOOR MUSIC HALL, Fort Walton Beach
Open Mic Night, 8 p.m.

HOG'S BREATH, Destin
ROB ROMANS, 5-9 p.m.

THE HUB 30A, Santa Rosa Beach
DAN HALL & BEN PARSONS, Noon

LOCAL CATCH, Santa Rosa Beach
FORREST WILLIAMS BAND, 4-7 p.m.
Sunday Funday

LUCY BUFFETT'S LULU'S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin
ALBERT SIMPSON, 5 p.m.

THE MARKET SHOPS, Sandestin
BOUKOU GROOVE, 1-3 p.m.
FREE Winter Concert Series

McGUIRE'S IRISH PUB, Destin
HOPE GIVEN, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
DREAD CLAMPITT, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

STINKY'S FISH CAMP, Santa Rosa Beach
THE STEENOS with FRANKO "WASHBOARD" JACKSON, 11 a.m.

TREBEACHE, Santa Rosa Beach
BILL GARRETT – "SMILIN'" FRITZ FROESCHNER, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 27

AJ'S OYSTER SHANTY, Okaloosa Island
RUSTY HAMMERSTROM, 3-6 p.m.

COASTERS, Fort Walton Beach
HERITAGE – THE MOON LAGOONS – THE INDUSTRY, 9:30 p.m.

FUNKY BLUES SHACK, Destin, 850-424-6650
GROUP THERAPY, 9 p.m.

THE GATHERING SPOT AT WATERCOLOR, Santa Rosa Beach
KYLE LaMONICA, 6 p.m.

HOG'S BREATH, Destin
JASON FINDLEY, 5-9 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT'S LULU'S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin
ALBERT SIMPSON, 5 p.m.

30A SONGWRITER MUSIC AND COFFEE, Santa Rosa Beach, www.30asongwriterradio.com
Spoken Word & Open Mic Poetry, 7-10 p.m.

THE TIPSY PIG, Fort Walton Beach
GRAPE DRINK, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 28

AJ'S, Destin
BANJORAMA, 4-7 p.m.

AJ'S ON THE BAYOU, Fort Walton Beach
Karaoke with TIM MORINELLI, 6-9 p.m.

BOATHOUSE OYSTER BAR, Destin
BT TURNER, 6 p.m.

COASTERS, Fort Walton Beach
BUMPIN UGLIES, 11 p.m.

FUNKY BLUES SHACK, Destin, 850-424-6650
THE GOOD LOOKINGS, 9 p.m.

HARBORWALK VILLAGE, Destin, HarborWalkDestin.com
VILLAGE BRASS BAND, 5-7 p.m.
Fat Tuesday Celebration

HOG'S BREATH, Destin, www.hogsbreath.com/destin
BRANDON DAY, 5-9 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT'S LULU'S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin
HOWLIN' JACK, 5 p.m.

REDD'S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach
REDD, THE SINGING BARTENDER

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin, www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach, www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR'S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-9 p.m.

SWIZZLE STICK LOUNGE, Okaloosa Island
BILL GARRETT, 8 p.m.-Midnight

30A SONGWRITER MUSIC AND COFFEE, Santa Rosa Beach, www.30asongwriterradio.com
Open Mic Live, 7-10 p.m.

VINYL MUSIC HALL, Pensacola
JIMMY EAT WORLD, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

AJ'S OYSTER SHANTY, Okaloosa Island
Karaoke with TIM MORINELLI, 7-11 p.m.

FOKKER'S PUB, Fort Walton Beach, 850-244-6666
PARADISE BAYOU, 6-10 p.m.

FUNKY BLUES SHACK, Destin, 850-424-6650
CONTINUUM, 9 p.m.

GREEN DOOR MUSIC HALL, Fort Walton Beach
Wailin' Blues Wednesdays Starring FINGA FAYA, 8 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT'S LULU'S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin
JUSTIN YAWN, 5 p.m.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.

REDD'S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach
Singer-Songwriter Open Mic Hosted by CHRISTIAN MAYES

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin, www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.
JONES & COMPANY, 6-9 p.m. (Courtyard)

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach, www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR'S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-9 p.m.

SWIZZLE STICK LOUNGE, Okaloosa Island
JOHN HOORMANN, 8 p.m.-Midnight

30A SONGWRITER MUSIC AND COFFEE, Santa Rosa Beach, www.30asongwriterradio.com
TED ROCKET Radio Program, 7-8 p.m.

THE TIPSY PIG, Fort Walton Beach
BRANDON DAY, 7 p.m.

VILLAGE OF BAYTOWNE WHARF, Sandestin, baytownewharf.com
DONNIE SUNDAL, 7-9 p.m.
The Beachcomber Music Awards Hall of Famer kicks off the Wednesday Night Concert Series.

VINYL MUSIC HALL, Pensacola
PEPPER – THE BUNNY GANG, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

AJ'S OYSTER SHANTY, Okaloosa Island
BT TURNER, 6 p.m.

CAMILLE'S, Destin
DEAN SADOWSKI, 3-5 p.m.

CRAB ISLAND CANTINA, HarborWalk Village, CrabIslandCantina.com
SOUTHERN DRAWL BAND

FUNKY BLUES SHACK, Destin, 850-424-6650
POST PLUTO, 9 p.m.

GROWLER GARAGE, Santa Rosa Beach
MAX McCANN, 5-8 p.m.

HOG'S BREATH, Destin
BRYAN BLUDWORTH, 5-9 p.m.

LA PLAYA, Santa Rosa Beach
FORREST WILLIAMS BAND, 7-10 p.m.
Ladies Night

LUCY BUFFETT'S LULU'S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin
LEFTY COLLINS, 5 p.m.

THE PERFECT PIG, Santa Rosa Beach
MARI GLEASON, 6 p.m.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.

REDD'S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach
REDD, THE SINGING BARTENDER

Beachcomberland Musicians

RON ADAMS
American Music Entertainer
www.ronadamsentertainment.com

CADILLAC WILLY
Rock/Jam/Cover Band
www.cadillacwilly.com

AUSTIN JENNINGS
Pop/Acoustic/Soul
www.reverbnation.com/austinjennings

KICKSTAND JENNY
Rock
www.kickstandjenny.com

MATT McCARTY QUINTET
Jazz
mattmccarty.com

NEW EARTH ARMY
Blues/Rock/Funk
thenewearthharmy.net

THE RIPS
Surfy Roots Rock
theripstunes.com

DEAN SADOWSKI
Beach/Country/Classic Rock
deansadowski@yahoo.com

SCHATZI + THE STRING BOFFIN
Folked-up Prog Rock
www.SNTSB.com

STRANGE TANG
Hip-Hop/Alternative Rap
www.iheartstrangetang.com

SWAY JAH VU
Reggae/Rock
www.swayjahvu.com

BT TURNER
Tropical Rock/Country
facebook.com/BTTurnerMusic

If you'd like to be listed here, please email **chris@beachcomberdestin.com.**

Live Music

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin, www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach, www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR'S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-9 p.m.

THE TIPSY PIG, Fort Walton Beach
SPUTZY, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

AL'S BEACH BAR, Okaloosa Island
LUKE LANGFORD & THE 331 SOUTH BAND

BRIC A BRAC, Destin
JONES & COMPANY

EL JALISCO, Destin Commons
AL ALVARADO, 6-9 p.m.

FOKKER'S PUB, Fort Walton Beach, 850-244-6666
JORDAN BALLANTYNE, 6-10 p.m.

FUNKY BLUES SHACK, Destin, 850-424-6650
BOUKOU GROOVE, 9 p.m.

GROWLER GARAGE, Santa Rosa Beach
DAN HALL, 5-8 p.m.

HAMMERHEAD'S BAR AND GRILLE, Village of Baytowne Wharf
KICKSTAND JENNY, 6 p.m.

HOG'S BREATH, Destin, www.hogsbreath.com/destin
JIM COUCH, 5-9 p.m.

JUANA'S PAGODAS, Navarre Beach
MARSHA MARSHA MARSHA, 9 p.m.

KC'S SANDBAR, Fort Walton Beach
NEW EARTH ARMY

LAGERHEADS, Navarre Beach
BT TURNER, 6 p.m.

McGUIRE'S IRISH PUB, Destin
HERITAGE, 9 p.m.

MODICA MARKET, Seaside, www.modicamarket.com
THE STEENOS, 5-7 p.m.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin, www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach, www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR'S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-10 p.m.

30A SONGWRITER MUSIC AND COFFEE, Santa Rosa Beach, www.30asongwriterradio.com
Friday Night Originals, 7-9 p.m.

THE TIPSY PIG, Fort Walton Beach
STICKY TEA, 7 p.m.

TWISTED GRAPE WINE BAR, Shalimar
BENGHAZI GRESHAM, 5 p.m.

VINYL MUSIC HALL, Pensacola
TRIBAL SEEDS – RAGING FYAH – NATTALI RIZE, 7 p.m.

WORLD OF BEER, Destin Commons
CONTINUUM, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

AJ'S OYSTER SHANTY, Okaloosa Island
BT TURNER, 3 p.m.

AL'S BEACH BAR, Okaloosa Island
LUKE LANGFORD & THE 331 SOUTH BAND

BRIC A BRAC, Destin
COCONUT RADIO, 6 p.m.

COASTERS, Fort Walton Beach
THE MOON LAGOONS, 11 p.m.-2 a.m.

FUNKY BLUES SHACK, Destin
POST PLUTO, 9 p.m.

GREEN DOOR MUSIC HALL, Fort Walton Beach
COURTNEE FALLON REX – DOC OTIS, 9 p.m.

HAMMERHEAD'S BAR AND GRILLE, Village of Baytowne Wharf
KICKSTAND JENNY, 6 p.m.

HOG'S BREATH, Destin
BO ADAMS, 6-10 p.m.

JUANA'S PAGODAS, Navarre Beach
MARSHA MARSHA MARSHA, 9 p.m.

MATTIE KELLY ARTS CENTER, Niceville, MattieKellyArtsCenter.org
THE PIANO MEN: A Tribute to Billy Joel and Elton John, 7:30 p.m.
Rescheduled from March 4. Tickets are $35 online, or call 850-729-6000.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.

REDD'S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach
REDD, THE SINGING BARTENDER

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin, www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach, www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR'S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-10 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

AJ'S, Destin
JONES & COMPANY, 4-8 p.m.

Live Music

BAMBOO WILLIE'S, Gulf Breeze
TYLER MAC, 7 p.m.

BOSHAMPS, Destin
CONTINUUM, 3 p.m.

CAMILLE'S, Destin
DEAN SADOWSKI, 10 a.m.-Noon

CRAB ISLAND CANTINA, HarborWalk Village, CrabIslandCantina.com
BT TURNER, 1 p.m.

FUNKY BLUES SHACK, Destin, 850-424-6650
MATT McCARTY's Jazz Jam, 7-10 p.m.

HOG'S BREATH, Destin
ROB ROMANS, 5-9 p.m.

JUANA'S PAGODAS, Navarre Beach
MARSHA MARSHA MARSHA, 9 p.m.

LOCAL CATCH, Santa Rosa Beach
HERITAGE, 3 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT'S LULU'S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin
JIMMY LUMPKIN, 5 p.m.

MATTIE KELLY ARTS CENTER, Niceville, MattieKellyArtsCenter.org
"Vienna Fingers" with LOIS HENRY, 3 p.m.
Northwest Florida State College Music Professor Henry performs in the Tyler Recital Hall. FREE with donations to support the college's fine arts programs and scholarships accepted at the door.

McGUIRE'S IRISH PUB, Destin
HOPE GIVEN, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
DREAD CLAMPITT, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

STINKY'S FISH CAMP, Santa Rosa Beach
THE STEENOS with FRANKO "WASHBOARD" JACKSON, 11 a.m.

TREBEACHE, Santa Rosa Beach
BILL GARRETT – "SMILIN'" FRITZ FROESCHNER, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 6

AJ'S OYSTER SHANTY, Okaloosa Island
RUSTY HAMMERSTROM, 3-6 p.m.

FUNKY BLUES SHACK, Destin, 850-424-6650
The Ninth Ever Beachcomber Music Awards with FINGA FAYA – NIK FLAGSTAR AND HIS DIRTY MANGY DOGS – HOPE GIVEN AND HER BAND – KICKSTAND JENNY – MATT McCARTY QUINTET – THE MOON LAGOONS and More, 6:30 p.m. til Late

THE GATHERING SPOT AT WATERCOLOR, Santa Rosa Beach
KYLE LaMONICA, 6 p.m.

HOG'S BREATH, Destin
JASON FINDLEY, 5-9 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT'S LULU'S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin
JIMMY LUMPKIN, 5 p.m.

SAENGER THEATRE, Pensacola
NORAH JONES, 8 p.m.
Next time, Norah…

THE TIPSY PIG, Fort Walton Beach
GRAPE DRINK, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

AJ'S, Destin
BANJORAMA, 4-7 p.m.

AJ'S ON THE BAYOU, Fort Walton Beach
Karaoke with TIM MORINELLI, 6-9 p.m.

BOATHOUSE OYSTER BAR, Destin
BT TURNER, 6 p.m.

FUNKY BLUES SHACK, Destin, 850-424-6650
THE GOOD LOOKINGS, 9 p.m.

HOG'S BREATH, Destin, www.hogsbreath.com/destin
BRANDON DAY, 5-9 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT'S LULU'S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin
HOWLIN' JACK, 5 p.m.

REDD'S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach
REDD, THE SINGING BARTENDER

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin, www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.

SAENGER THEATRE, Pensacola
AMOS LEE, 8 p.m.

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach, www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR'S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-9 p.m.

SWIZZLE STICK LOUNGE, Okaloosa Island
BILL GARRETT, 8 p.m.-Midnight

30A SONGWRITER MUSIC AND COFFEE, Santa Rosa Beach, www.30asongwriterradio.com
Open Mic Live, 7-10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

AJ'S OYSTER SHANTY, Okaloosa Island
Karaoke with TIM MORINELLI, 7-11 p.m.

CLUB LA, Destin
MOON TAXI – LOS COLOGNES

FOKKER'S PUB, Fort Walton Beach, 850-244-6666
PARADISE BAYOU, 6-10 p.m.

FUNKY BLUES SHACK, Destin, 850-424-6650
CONTINUUM, 9 p.m.

GREEN DOOR MUSIC HALL, Fort Walton Beach
Wailin' Blues Wednesdays Starring FINGA FAYA, 8 p.m.

HOG'S BREATH, Destin, www.hogsbreath.com/destin
AUSTIN JENNINGS, 5-9 p.m.

LUCY BUFFETT'S LULU'S, Destin, lulubuffett.com/destin
RONNIE PRESLEY, 5 p.m.
"The Delta's Rockin' Country Boy!"

THE RED BAR, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008
RED BAR JAZZ BAND, 5:30-10 p.m.

REDD'S FUELING STATION, Santa Rosa Beach
Singer-Songwriter Open Mic Hosted by CHRISTIAN MAYES

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, Destin, www.RuthChrisDestin.com
MICHAEL J THOMAS, 6-9 p.m.
JONES & COMPANY, 6-9 p.m. (Courtyard)

SALTWATER GRILL, Panama City Beach, www.saltwatergrillpcb.com
MICHAEL RORAH

SEAGAR'S, Sandestin, www.SeagarsDestin.com
RAY HITCHELL, 6-9 p.m.

SWIZZLE STICK LOUNGE, Okaloosa Island
JOHN HOORMANN, 8 p.m.-Midnight

30A SONGWRITER MUSIC AND COFFEE, Santa Rosa Beach, www.30asongwriterradio.com
TED ROCKET Radio Program, 7-8 p.m.

THE TIPSY PIG, Fort Walton Beach
BRANDON DAY, 7 p.m.

VILLAGE OF BAYTOWNE WHARF, Sandestin, baytownewharf.com
HERITAGE, 7-9 p.m.
Wednesday Night Concert Series

UPCOMING MUSIC RELEASES

FEB. 24

All Them Witches, *Sleeping Through the War*
Asia, *Symfonia: Live in Bulgaria 2013* (Also on DVD). John Wetton, R.I.P.
Harry Belafonte, *When Colors Come Together… The Legacy of Harry Belafonte*
Scott H. Biram, *The Bad Testament*
Rick Braun, *Around the Horn*
Clap Your Hands Say Yeah, *The Tourist*
Rhiannon Giddens, *Freedom Highway*
George Harrison, *The Vinyl Collection.* A 13-album box set of George's 1968-2002 output, with some attractive picture disc add-ons.
Iggy & the Stooges, *Gimme Danger: The Story of the Stooges (Music from the Motion Picture)*
Gregory Isaacs, *The Best of Gregory Isaacs*
Jose James, *Love in a Time of Madness*
Little Big Town, *The Breaker*
Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, *Fishin' in the Dark: The Best of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band*
Old 97's, *Graveyard Whistling*
Roy Orbison, *Black & White Night 30* (CD/DVD). Expanded edition of the 1988 TV special.
Wesley Stace, *Wesley Stace's John Wesley Harding*
Thundercat, *Drunk*

MARCH 3

Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, *One More Time with Feeling* (Blu-ray)
Guy Clark, *The Best of the Dualtone Years*
Bela Fleck, *The Junto Concerto*
Colin Hay, *Fierce Mercy*
The Magnetic Fields, *50 Song Memoir*
Brad Paisley, *Love and War*
Ed Sheeran, *Divide*
Livingston Taylor, *Safe Home*
Within the Ruins, *Halfway Human*

Sources: pauseandplay.com, allmusic.com

CADILLAC WILLY - CHELSEA FROM Q92 - TED COBENA - FINGA FAYA - NIK FLAGSTAR AND HIS DIRTY MANGY DOGS - HOPE GIVEN AND HER BAND - THE GOOD LOOKINGS - AUSTIN JENNINGS - KICKSTAND JENNY - MATT McCARTY QUINTET - THE MOON LAGOONS - ALISSA STEFFENS - STRANGE TANG - CHERYL JONES - BILL GARRETT

The Ninth Ever Beachcomber Music Awards

Monday, March 6, 2017

Graffiti & the Funky Blues Shack, Destin, 6:30 p.m.

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Inaugural Birds of Paradise Mardi Gras Ball at LuLu's Destin Feb. 25

LuLu's Destin hosts their inaugural Birds of Paradise Mardi Gras Ball, presented by Krewe De Lu Roux, Saturday, **Feb. 25,** at 7 p.m.

Feast on a delicious buffet dinner with a freshly prepared menu unique to the evening, featuring an open bar with select wine, beer and liquor at this all-inclusive event.

Dress is island elegance. Guests will enjoy a festive evening with live entertainment from **Hotwire.** The Mobile, Alabama band is known for bringing down the house with their dance-funk-Motown setlist.

Join the welcoming and official coronation of the ball's first Mardi Gras King and Queen. The King is **Cory Fosdyck,** a senior vice-president at Merrill Lynch in Destin well known for his community involvement. Fosdyck was the chairman of the Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation (DCWAF) in 2014-15. He has served as chairman of the Walton County Chamber, and is on the board of the Destin Chamber. He co-founded Young Professionals at the Beach, now called YP.

The Queen is food critic, artist, travel writer, speaker and blogger **Susan Benton.** A world traveler and food industry veteran, Benton founded **30AEats.com** and is a contributing writer to many publications. She has judged numerous food competitions and is a member of many food-related professional associations.

"LuLu's is celebrating Mardi Gras the only way we know how...a real party!" says restaurateur and author **Lucy Buffett.** "We've been hosting a Birds of Paradise Mardi Gras Ball at our Gulf Shores restaurant for the past five years, and it has grown into a highly anticipated, must-go-to event. We want the Destin ball to be a night to remember."

LuLu's will be closed to the public that night. This event is for ages 21 and up. Tickets are limited, and the all-inclusive cost is $65 per person. Order online at **lulubuffett.com/destin,** call 850-710-5858, or stop by the restaurant.

- Kay Phelan

Seaside School Fundraiser March 3-5 – Special Appearance by Chef Emeril Lagasse

Get ready, set and race to help support the Seaside School. The three-day race weekend includes Taste of the Race pre-party, the Seaside School Race Expo, and the 15th Annual Seaside School Half Marathon & 5K Run.

Taste of the Race is presented by Chef Emeril Lagasse and Visit South Walton Friday, **March 3,** from 6 to 9 p.m. at Seaside's Lyceum Hall. Participants can pick up packets enjoy cuisine from some of the Gulf Coast's top chefs, fine wines, craft beer and spirits, listen to live music and get a sneak peak at the silent auction.

All VIP guests will have a special opportunity to take a photo with Lagasse and will also receive a special gift from the celebrity chef. Additionally, VIP guests will be provided entrance into the general admission event. Race registration packet pickup will be available.

Attendees to the general admission event will join Chef Lagasse in person and enjoy cuisine from two of Emeril's famous restaurants along with some of the Gulf Coast's top chefs and restaurants including Great Southern Cafe, the Bay, Stinky's Fish Camp, and Bud & Alley's Waterfront Restaurant.

Enjoy complimentary fine wine from Wine World, craft spirits from Buffalo Trace, and craft beer from Grayton Beer Company while listening to live music.

The festivities continue Saturday, **March 4,** with the Seaside School Race Expo from noon to 6 p.m. on the Seaside Lyceum lawn, where guests can pick up race registrations, browse vendor expos and bid in the silent auction.

The Seaside School Half Marathon race, presented by Vera Bradley, begins at the Seaside Post Office Sunday, **March 5,** at 7 a.m. The 5K Run begins at 7:25. Silent auction bidding will remain open up until 11:30 a.m. All finishers receive a designer Vera Bradley tote. Half marathoners receive a custom finisher's medallion, and both races provide a moisture-wicking race shirt and coveted goody bag.

Runners Awards will enjoy a post-race lunch catered by Bud & Alley's Pizza Bar, 45 Central Wine Bar and Grayton Beer Company with live music by the Forrest Williams Band in the Seaside Amphitheater beginning at 8:30 a.m.

"This is such a fun weekend for such a deserving cause," says **Alicia Butler,** director of Seaside School Foundation, which produces the race. "Whether you are one of our veteran racers or are a new participant, we have lots of family friendly festive fun in store for everyone. There is no doubt that our 15th year is going to be the best yet."

Tickets to Taste of the Race are $300 for VIP admission, which opens at 6 p.m. and $99 for general admission from 7 to 9 p.m. Race registration is $125 for the Half Marathon and $95 for the 5K. Additional online registration fees may apply. Space is limited—advance registration for both races is required.

Registration for the Half Marathon or 5K race does not include entry into the Taste of the Race with Chef Emeril Lagasse, nor does registration for the Taste of the Race include entry into the Half Marathon or 5K race.

The race is produced by Seaside School Foundation. Proceeds from the weekend's festivities benefit Seaside School, Inc., a small tuition-free neighborhood public charter school serving students in South Walton, as well as all of Walton County The Seaside School is one charter school serving students on two campuses—Seaside Neighborhood School (grades 5-8) and Seacoast Collegiate High School (grades 9-12).

For tickets to Taste of the Race or to register for the Seaside School Half Marathon and 5K Run, visit **runseasidefl.com**. For more information on Seaside School, visit **seasideschool.net.**

- Zandra Wolfgram

Events

All information is subject to change. Please refer to the contact numbers and/or emails/web sites for up-to-the-minute details. Send us your March 9-March 22 events by 5 p.m. Thursday, **March 2,** *or they will not be in our next issue. Please submit events in the format used here. Photos welcome. Email* **chris@beachcomberdestin.com**.

THURSDAY, FEB. 23

BUBBLY BAYTOWNE
The Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin, 5 p.m.
baytownewharf.com
Sip and shop through the Village streets. Champagne, live music and more—FREE for ages 21 and up.

MATT GAETZ TOWN HALL PROTEST
Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners, Milton, 3:30-6 p.m.
The Panhandle Progressives invite likeminded individuals to a "peaceful, yet powerful" protest. Signs welcome. The event is based upon Congressman Gaetz's intention to abolish the Environmental Protection Agency, for starters.

"SEX, DRUGS AND SEA SLIME" WITH ELLEN PRAGER
Jean & Paul Amos Performance Studio at WSRE-TV, Pensacola, 7 p.m.
wsre.org/speakers
The author and marine scientist talks about the wealth of life in the sea and the need to protect it. FREE. Make your reservations at the website above.

FRIDAY, FEB. 24

MARDI GRAS PARADE
Destin Commons, 6-8 p.m.
DestinCommons.com
Let the good times roll with a lineup of over 35 floats and marchers, plus live entertainment from **Mr. Big and the Rhythm Sisters,** kids' activities, and more.

MARDI GRAS PUB CRAWL
HarborWalk Village, Destin, 6 p.m.
HarborWalkDestin.com
Bourbon Street meets the beach. Enjoy drink specials at participating bars and restaurants, and kick of the Mardi Gras festivities on the Destin Harbor. Get your Pub Crawl pass with a $10 donation to Food for Thought Outreach, Inc.

"OVER THE HORIZON: THE AGE OF DISCOVERY IN FLORIDA"
Indian Temple Mound Museum, Fort Walton Beach, 6 p.m.
850-833-9595
Michael Weech discusses the story of exploration and discovery in the New World. FREE with limited seating.

SATURDAY, FEB. 25

ACT4MURDER'S "A VACATION TO DIE FOR"
Samuel's Roadhouse, Crestview, 6:30 p.m.
act4murder.com
Paula Hilton and her lovable rednecks return as working musicians Bunky Wonky and Tommy Wunkus find their beach holiday disrupted by meddling relatives and an old flame. Cost is $38 for dinner and show. Call 850-862-2885 for more info. VIP packages available.

FINDING FUREVER HOMES ADOPTION EVENT AND FUNDRAISER
Destin Dog Park, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Help the Panhandle Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) raise money for its mobile veterinary clinic. Adoptable dogs will be onsite.

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF THE EMERALD COAST'S FIFTH ANNUAL ROCK THE ROAD 5K/10K RACE
Clement Taylor Park, Destin, 8:30 a.m.
active.com

Let your inner rock star out and dress up as your favorite musician from past or present. Packet pickup at 7 a.m. Post-race festivities at Dewey Destin's Bayside starting at 9:30 a.m. All money raised goes directly to support the projects and programs of the JLEC.

MARDI GRAS MASQUERADE PUB CRAWL
Downtown Fort Walton Beach, 5-10 p.m.
Registration pickup from 4 to 7 p.m. behind Run With It on Brooks Street. Must be 21 or older to participate.

NINTH ANNUAL MARDI GRAS PARADE
HarborWalk Village, Destin, 2 p.m.
HarborWalkDestin.com
Decorative floats, dazzling costumes and beads galore. Local judges will evaluate parade entries for spirit, creativity and overall enthusiasm. Live music on the Main Stage at noon.

RESCUED RESCUERS THIRD WIENERFUL WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER
Twisted Grape Wine Bar, Shalimar, 3-5 p.m.
werescuedogs.org
For just $20, enjoy wine, light *hors d'oeuvres* and raffles. And have a look at the Rescuers' current fosters.

SEASIDE FARMERS MARKET
Seaside, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Behind Raw & Juicy
www.seasidefl.com
Fresh produce, baked goods, dairy products, native plants and other unique offerings.

SUNDAY, FEB. 26

MARDI GRAS DOG PARADE
The Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin, 2 p.m.
baytownewharf.com
This year's theme is "Canines and Comics." Call 850-267-8117 to register your pooch.

SUMMER AUDITIONS
Emerald Coast Theatre Company, Grand Boulevard at Sandestin, 4 p.m.
info@emeraldcoasttheatre.org
Prepare a one-minute Shakespearean comedic monologue, and be prepared

Congratulations to the Walton Area Chamber of Commerce's Person of the Year, Dewayne Youngblood from Regions Bank. Still waiting to hear back from you about that loan, Dewayne. Other honorees at this year's soiree included Ann Kief from Qivana (Volunteer of the Year), Jessica Proffitt Bracken from Proffitt PR (Young Professional of the Year), Triangle Chevrolet-Buick, Inc. (Small Business of the Year, North Walton), Insurance Zone (Small Business of the Year, South Walton), and ResortQuest by Wyndham Vacation Rentals (Large Business of the Year).

Photo by Land Air Sea Productions.

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Events

for script readings and improvisation at the audition. Rehearsals start in May, with performances throughout June and July. All positions paid.

MONDAY, FEB. 27

"ONCE"
Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville, 7:30 p.m.
MattieKellyArtsCenter.org
The Tony Award winning musical, filled with love, laughter and gutsy Irish music. Tickets are $45 with group discounts for 10 or more.

TAI CHI WITH BARBARA REZMER
Destin Library, 9 a.m.
taichiforarthritis.com
Cost per session is five bucks. Enrollment is limited to 12 participants per class. Call 850-837-8572 to register.

TUESDAY, FEB. 28

FAT TUESDAY BAYTOWNE BASH
The Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin, 5 p.m.
baytownewharf.com
Unique and colorful floats, golf carts and pickup trucks roll down the streets of Baytowne, showering onlookers with beads, Moon Pies and other goodies.

FAT TUESDAY CELEBRATION
HarborWalk Village, Destin, 5 p.m.
HarborWalkDestin.com
Enjoy FREE red beans and rice from Jackacudas

Family-Friendly Events

THURSDAY, FEB. 23

Cuddlers and Toddlers Storytime at Destin Library (ages 0-4), 9:30 a.m.

Lapsit Storytime at Nicevile Library (ages pre-walkers), 9:30 a.m.

Storytime Class at Walton County Coastal Branch Library, Santa Rosa Beach, 10-11 a.m.

Lapsit Storytime at Crestview Library (ages 0-2), 10:15 a.m.

Lapsit Storytime at Fort Walton Beach Library (babies and preschoolers), 10:30 a.m.

Toddlers Storytime at Niceville Library (ages 0-3), 10:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 24

Mardi Gras Teen Night (Ages 13-17) at Trebeache, Santa Rosa Beach, 6-9 p.m., $20. DJ, dancing, soda, popcorn, King Cake and more. **eventrbrite.com.**

SATURDAY, FEB. 25

Apple Classic 5K and 10K at Hammock Bay, Freeport, 9 a.m.-noon. Benefits Walton Education Foundation. **appleclassicrun.com.**

Kids Play Day at Bluewater Bay Tennis Club, Niceville, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. No tennis experience? No racket? No problem. And no cost! RSVP to 850-897-8010 or email **m.kirkham@cliffdrysdale.com.**

SUNDAY, FEB. 26

"Canines & Comics" Mardi Gras Dog Parade at the Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin, 2-4 p.m. **baytownewharf.com.**

MONDAY, FEB. 27

Storytime Class at Valparaiso Library, 10 a.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 28

Fairy Tale Night at Crestview Public Library, 6-8 p.m. Write a fairy tale, meet a princess, enjoy crafts and games plus face painting and a princess scavenger hunt. 850-682-4432.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Storytime at Freeport Public Library, 10-11 a.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

Thank Our Locals Thursday at Bounce Party Playzone, Santa Rosa Mall, Mary Esther. Indoor play area for kids up to age 12 with bounce houses, slides, games, party rooms and more.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

Kids Night Out, various locations in Okaloosa and Walton counties. More at **emeraldcoastkids.org/kids-night-out.**

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

"Cinderella, Cinderella"—Theater for Young Audiences at Emerald Coast Theatre Company, Grand Boulevard at Sandestin, 9:30 a.m.

Robotics Workshop at Emerald Coast Science Center, Fort Walton Beach, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For ages 9-14. **ecscience.org.**

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

Seaside School Half Marathon and 5K at Seaside, 7 a.m.-noon. More at **runseasidefl.com.**

MONDAY, MARCH 6

Lapsit Storytime Class at Fort Walton Beach Library, 10:30 a.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Kids Eat FREE, various locations in Okaloosa and Walton counties. **emeraldcoastkids.org/freebies-kids-eat-free-emeraldcoastkids.**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

"Annie: The Musical" at Bay Arts and Marina Civic Center, Panama City, 7:30 p.m. **marinaciviccenter.com.**

- Kellyanne Bartleson, **EmeraldCoastKids.org**

and live music by **The Village Brass Band,** then get ready for furry, festive fun with the first annual Mardi PAWS Costume Contest at 6. To enter your four-legger, email Ryan at **rmagee@harborwalkvillage.com.**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

"ONCE"
Saenger Theatre, Pensacola, 7:30 p.m.
The Tony Award winning musical about a Dublin street musician and the beautiful young woman who takes an interest in his haunting love songs.

"PRIME TIME" WINTER COMMUNITY PROGRAM
Walton County Coastal Branch Library, Santa Rosa Beach, 10 a.m.
Retired Air Force and civil service archaeologist **Bob Lauderdale** talks about Native American culture along the Mississippi River.

THE STOKED SHOW
Bart Rockett Theater, HarborWalk Village, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
thestokedshow.com
Legendary comic hypnotist **Terry Stokes,** singer **Paul Brevard** and special guest hypnotist **Terry Stokes Jr.** in a 90-minute interactive show. FREE admission, or you pick the ticket price.

TRIVIA NIGHT
World of Beer, Destin Commons, 7 p.m.
Draw on your knowledge of useless information and win prizes.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

THE STOKED SHOW
Bart Rockett Theater, HarborWalk Village, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
thestokedshow.com

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

THE STOKED SHOW
Bart Rockett Theater, HarborWalk Village, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
thestokedshow.com

10TH ANNUAL EMERALD COAST CATTLE BARONS' BALL
Linkside Conference Center, Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort, Miramar Beach, 7 p.m.
850-244-3813
The theme for this year's American Cancer Society benefit is "Guitars, Glitz & Glamour." Delicious vittles from local restaurants, live and silent auction items, live music from Beachcomber Music Award nominees **Ron Adams and the Memphis Echoes** and more.

WINE & DINE FOR DRAVET
Juana's Pagodas and Sailors' Grill, Navarre Beach, 6 p.m.
An event to benefit and raise awareness for the Dravet Syndrome Foundation, with wine tasting, buffet and live music by **Stevie Hall.** Tickets are $15 and up.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

MARDI GRAS PARTY
American Legion Post 235, Fort Walton Beach, 6:30 p.m.
Tickets are $20 per person, $35 per couple.

ROLLER DERBY DOUBLE HEADER
Fort Walton Beach Fairgrounds, 4 p.m.
The 2017 season home opener kicks off with the Beach Brawl Sk8r Dolls taking on the Red River Sirens on behalf of Relay for Life. Next, the Atlanta ReserGents take on the New Orleans Brass. Advance tickets are $12 at **brownpapertickets.com,** $15 at the

door. Discounts for military, EMT, police and firefighters with ID. Kids 10 and under are FREE.

SEASIDE FARMERS MARKET
Seaside, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Behind Raw & Juicy
www.seasidefl.com
Fresh produce, baked goods, dairy products, native plants and other unique offerings.

THE STOKED SHOW
Bart Rockett Theater, HarborWalk Village, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
thestokedshow.com

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

THE STOKED SHOW
Bart Rockett Theater, HarborWalk Village, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
thestokedshow.com

SUNDAY FUNDAY
Emerald Coast Dragway, Holt
Gates open at 10 a.m. Racing from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission $12.

MONDAY, MARCH 6

THE NINTH EVER BEACHCOMBER MUSIC AWARDS
Graffiti & the Funky Blues Shack, Destin, 6:30 p.m.
beachcomberdestin.com
Our biggest event of the year, with 45 categories, numerous guest presenters and performances by **Finga FAYA, Nik Flagstar and His Dirty Mangy Dogs, Hope Given and Her Band, Kickstand Jenny, The Matt McCarty Quintet** and **The Moon Lagoons.** FREE admission.

TAI CHI WITH BARBARA REZMER
Destin Library, 9 a.m.
taichiforarthritis.com
Cost per session is five bucks. Enrollment is limited to 12 participants per class. Call 850-837-8572 to register.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

COOKING WITH THE CHEF
Emerald Grande, HarborWalk Village, Noon
850-424-0622
An entertaining afternoon with **Chef Jimmy McManus.** Cost is $25, limited seating available.

ESSENTIAL OILS EDUCATION
The Healing Clinic of Fort Walton Beach, 6 p.m.
FREE lecture promoting the use of oils for holistic wellness.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

"PRIME TIME" WINTER COMMUNITY PROGRAM
Walton County Coastal Branch Library, Santa Rosa Beach, 10 a.m.
Bonnie Samuelsen, Project Coordinator for Audubon Florida's Coastal Bird Stewardship Program in Northwest Florida, discusses "Beach-Nesting Shore Birds: Florida's Original Beach Babies."

THE STOKED SHOW
Bart Rockett Theater, HarborWalk Village, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
thestokedshow.com

TRIVIA NIGHT
World of Beer, Destin Commons, 7 p.m.
Draw on your knowledge of useless information and win prizes.

2017 COBIA TOURNAMENT KICKOFF PARTY
Harry T's Lighthouse, HarborWalk Village, 6 p.m.
Register for the 20th annual HarborWalk Marina event, enjoy food, drinks and raffle prizes.

Super readers Reid (how appropriate), Brant and Emmelyne Balzer were the first to complete the Walton County Coastal Branch Library's Winter Reading Challenge. Join the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance and our friends at the library Feb. 25 for a fun, hands-on activity for children and their families. Contact Amanda at 850-200-4168 or Belinda at 850-267-2809 for more info, or visit youseemore.com/walton.
Photo submitted by Linda Thompson.

Beachside Worship Services

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION EPISCOPAL CHURCH UECNA 1928 Book of Common Prayer Service, 10 a.m. Sundays, communion service 2nd and 4th Sundays, morning prayer, 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays. 66 8th Street, Shalimar, 850-651-9800.

DESTIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND LIFE CENTER Contemporary service, 9 a.m. Traditional and youth services at 11 a.m.Weekend beachside services begin at 7:30 a.m. at Henderson Beach State Park Memorial Day weekend. 200 Beach Drive, Destin. 850-837-2021.

FAITH ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH Sunday worship services: 8:45 and 11 a.m. Nursery and children's church is available. Wednesday bible study at 7 p.m. Located at 306 S. Geronimo St. in Miramar Beach, three blocks west of Silver Sands Outlet Mall. 850-837-7561.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DESTIN Sunday bible study at 9:15 a.m., worship service at 10:30 a.m., prayer group at 5 p.m. Wednesday supper at 6 p.m., followed by youth-kids programs and bible study at 6:30. 201 Beach Drive, 850-837-6515.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SEAGROVE Sunday services at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6 p.m. 4915 E Hwy. 30A, Seagrove, 850-231-2884.

GOOD NEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Sunday services 8:50 a.m., traditional worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday school, 11 a.m., contemporary worship, 4747 Hwy 98W, Santa Rosa Beach, 850-622-9191.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Sundays 8 a.m. worship, 9:15 bible study, 10:30 worship, 4325 Commons Drive, 850-654-1679.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH Beach worship at 8 a.m. at Ed Walline Park, intersection of Scenic Highway 30A and CR-393, Santa Rosa Beach. Vintage service at 10:15 a.m. at 3834 U.S. 98 West. For more info, call Pastor Jason Scheler at 850-267-0322 or email **pastorj@hopeonthebeach.org.**

RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH Saturday vigil mass, 5 p.m.; Sunday masses, 8 and 10:30 a.m.; Daily liturgies, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.; Holy Days of Obligation, 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Fridays, 9-10 a.m.; Confessions, Saturdays, 4-4:45 p.m. or by appointment. 259 Miramar Beach Dr., Destin, 850-837-0358.

SAFE HARBOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., worship service at 10:30. 801 Airport Road, Destin, 850-837-2133.

SAINT RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH Saturday Vigil mass at 5:30 p.m. year round. Sunday services at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Holy Day services, call the office please. 137 Moll Drive, Santa Rosa Beach, just off U.S. 98. 850-267-2558. **www.saintritaparish.org.**

SANTA ROSA COMMUNITY CHURCH Interdenominational service 10 a.m. Sundays. 3524 Hwy. 98W, 850-267-7599.

SHORELINE CHURCH Non-denominational modern Sunday service at 9 and 10:30 a.m. at AMC Motion Pictures in Destin Commons, and Sundays at 9 and 10:30 a.m. at Uptown Station Campus, Fort Walton Beach. 850-650-8658 or **www.shorelinechurch.net.**

ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH Service at 10 a.m. Sundays. 307 Hwy. 98E, Destin, 850-650-2737

ST. MARKELLA & DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH Sunday service at 10 a.m. 400 Hwy. 98E, Mary Esther, 850-244-0822.

ST. SIMON'S ON THE SOUND EPISCOPAL CHURCH Sunday services at 8 and 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. 28 Hwy. 98W, FWB, 850-244-8621.

VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday services at 9 and 10:30 a.m. 101 Matthew one block south of Hwy. 98E, Destin, 850-837-8107.

Beachcomberland Places

ANTIQUES

DE FRANCE ANTIQUES & FLEA MKT. with over 80+ vendors, lots of unique items to choose from. 230 S.E. Eglin Pkwy. 850-314-7500.

SMITH'S ANTIQUES MALL & INTERIORS MARKET 25,000 sq. ft. and 94 vetted dealers have made Smith's the favorite with decorators, locals and tourists for over 20 years. Voted Best of the Emerald Coast for 14 consecutive years, Finest on the Emerald Coast, and Best in Destin… need we say more? Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 12500 Emerald Coast Parkway, Miramar Beach (near Silver Sands). 850-654-1484. **www.smithsantiquesmall.com.**

BOOKSTORES

READ IT AGAIN Used and rare books. Browse inventory and shop online at **www.readitagain1.com** or just come see us at 703 John Sims Parkway in Niceville, just one block west of Niceville High School. Hours of operation are Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-6 p.m. We have a little bit of everything—popular reads, new releases, fiction, nonfiction, fantasy and science fiction, mystery and suspense, romance, history, military and so much more. 850-279-4646.

EDUCATIONAL

EMERALD COAST SCIENCE CENTER A unique museum allowing visitors to touch and use the exhibits, including optical illusions, a nature room and a wind tunnel. 31 SW Memorial Parkway, Fort Walton Beach, 850-664-1261. **www.ecscience.org.**

FARMERS' MARKETS

30A FARMERS' MARKETS Two convenient locations. Contact Diane at 850-499-4697 for more info.

- **GRAND BOULEVARD FARMERS' MARKET AT SANDESTIN** 600 Grand Boulevard, Miramar Beach. Saturdays year-round, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **30A FARMERS' MARKET IN ROSEMARY BEACH COMMUNITY** Sundays year-round, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursdays (Memorial Day through Labor Day), 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

GOLF

REGATTA BAY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB This award-winning 18-hole course offers an extraordinary golfing experience for players of all skill levels and was named one of *Golf Digest's* Top Places to Play. Equipment rental available. 465 Regatta Bay Blvd., Destin, 850-337-8080. **www.regattabay.com.**

SANTA ROSA GOLF & BEACH CLUB Referred to as the "Purest golf in the Florida Panhandle" by *Golf* Magazine, this 18-hole, par 72 course offers five sets of tees and a challenge for every skill level of handicap. Situated on 80 pristine acres in the heart of Santa Rosa Beach, this course has a unique character only found around the Highway 30A corridor. Holes three through five wind around a complex of dunes, all within a few hundred yards of the Gulf of Mexico. Dining, driving range, putting green and club rentals available. 334 Golf Club Drive, Santa Rosa Beach, 850-267-2229. **www.santarosaclub.com.**

MARINE PARKS/ AQUARIUMS

GULFARIUM MARINE ADVENTURE PARK Delight in watching dolphins leap and sea lions play during spectacular shows! Or participate and interact directly with these and other remarkable marine animals including stingrays, seals and penguins during interactive programming (advance reservations required). Enjoy educational exhibits and beautiful ocean views. Open daily at 9 a.m. 1010 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach, 850-243-9046. **www.gulfarium.com.**

MUSEUMS

DESTIN HISTORY & FISHING MUSEUM Open year round, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for holiday hours of operation. Admission is $5 for adults, $4 for seniors and military and $3 for children. 108 Stahlman Avenue, Destin, 850-837-6611.

INDIAN TEMPLE MOUND MUSEUM Artifacts and displays showing the rich Indian history of this area. 139 Hwy. 98SE, FWB, 850-833-9595.

MUSIC STORES

LEITZ MUSIC Guitars, bass, drums and keyboards, plus recording, DJ and PA equipment. Sales, repairs and lessons. Gibson, Fender, PRS, Taylor, Martin, Ibanez and more. Open Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sundays noon-6 p.m. Now located in Uptown Station, Fort Walton Beach, 850-863-1099. **www.facebook.com/LeitzMusicFWB.**

PARKS & PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS

BEASLEY WAYSIDE PARK Picnic tables, public beach area, barbecue grills, bathhouse, and restrooms. Gulf side of Okaloosa Island, Hwy. 98W.

BLACKWATER RIVER STATE PARK NW of FWB off Hwy. 90. You can catch sight of lots of wildlife while camping, canoeing, hiking, and fishing. Milton, 850-983-5363.

BLUE MOUNTAIN BEACH Public parking for this access is located at the south end of CR-83 and Scenic Highway 30-A.

BRACKIN WAYSIDE PARK Gulf side of Okaloosa Island on Hwy. 98W. Facilities include restaurants, saloons, children's playground, beach volleyball, three beach accesses, showers, public restrooms, and picnic table.

CAMP HELEN STATE PARK offers hiking, birding, beachcombing, swimming, fishing, canoeing and kayaking along with nine historic buildings. Located at 23937 Panama City Beach Parkway (U.S. 98), 12 miles east of 331, seven miles west of Highway 79. 850-233-5059.

CESSNA BAY Picnic tables, parking, rest rooms and boat access. 1476 N. CR-393.

CLEMENT E. TAYLOR CITY PARK This park is named after one of Destin's early settlers and is on Choctawhatchee Bay. Chock full of shade trees, there are picnic areas and restrooms, but no camping. Destin, off Calhoun Drive.

DUNE ALLEN In Dune Allen beach this access has parking, but no bathrooms, showers or picnic area. 5753 Hwy 30-A W., Santa Rosa Beach.

ED WALLINE A large public beach access in South Walton, providing handicapped parking, picnic tables, restrooms and showers. Intersection of Hwy 30-A and CR-393.

EDEN GARDENS STATE PARK An historic homestead under majestic moss draped oaks with a home surrounded by lawns and seasonal gardens. Tours of the home are Thursday through Monday hourly beginning at 10 a.m. with the last tour at 3 p.m. The park and picnic areas are open daily from 8 a.m. to sunset and located on CR-395 north off Hwy 98 in Point Washington. Call 850-231-4214 for more information.

GRAYTON BEACH STATE RECREATION AREA Camping, picnics, hiking, swimming, saltwater fishing, and boating. Showers and electricity are part of the amenities. Access from S. Hwy. 30-A, South Walton, 850-267-8300.

GRAYTON DUNES Handicapped and public parking plus beach access. Behind the Red Bar in Grayton Beach.

GULF SHORE MANOR Public restrooms, handicapped and public parking. 3468 E. Hwy 30-A , Seagrove Beach.

GULFVIEW HEIGHTS Located at the end of Gulfview Heights St, behind Goatfeather's restaurant, this access offers parking, picnic areas and restrooms.

HENDERSON BEACH STATE PARK This park has it all: camping, swimming area sheltered picnic areas, grills, and restrooms. But there is no boat ramp and jet skis and other personal watercraft are prohibited. 17000 Hwy. 98W, Destin, 850-837-7550.

INLET BEACH This area offers handicapped and public parking, restrooms and dune walkovers to the beach. 438 S. Orange St. in Inlet Beach.

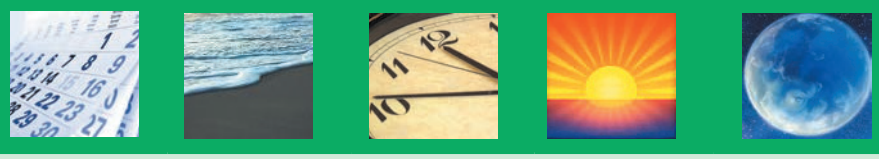
LEGION BAY Picnic tables, public parking, boat ramp and restrooms. Intersection of Ponce de Leon and Crest Dr, 191 Crest Dr, Sandestin.

MARIER MEMORIAL PARK Public beach area, picnic tables, barbecue grills, boat ramp, restrooms and bathhouse. Bay side of Okaloosa Island, off Santa Rosa Blvd.

MIRAMAR BEACH ACCESS Parking with public beach access. Scenic Hwy 98 and Driftwood Road, adjacent to Pompano Joe's.

TOPSAIL HILL STATE PRESERVE Two major freshwater coastal dune lakes are located within the 1,600-acre preserve. Campground entrance and day use entrance are located on West Scenic Highway 30-A, 1/4 mile south of U.S. 98. 850-267-0299. **www.floridastateparks.org/topsailhill.**

DESTIN EAST PASS TIDE AND SUNSET CHART



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2.28	Low Low	7:48am 11:51pm	6:14am 5:44pm	1
3.1	High Low	1:10am 8:16pm	6:12am 5:45pm	6
3.2	High Low	1:10pm 10:18pm	6:11am 5:46pm	12
3.3	High	1:43pm	6:09am 5:46pm	21
3.4	Low High	12:14am 2:32pm	6:08am 5:47pm	31
3.5	Low High	1.51am 3:35pm	6:07am 5:48pm	42
3.6	Low High	3:09am 4:47pm	6:06am 5:48pm	53
3.7	Low High	4:14am 6:03pm	6:05am 5:49pm	65
3.8	Low High	5:08am 7:15pm	6:04am 5:50pm	75

Girls Gone Hunting... Kansas Goose Hunt

By Jenna Taylor
Photos by Hunter Forbes

Hunter and I started the 16-plus-hour trek to Hutchinson, Kansas at the beginning of February. Headed to yet another hunting trip of the year, this time was a bit different. Instead of being the only girl in the blind, I would be one of six waterfowl hunters, all female. Oddly enough, the owner of Big Kansas Outdoors, Ben Webster, his guides and Hunter were the minority this time.

We got in town that night and before heading to the cabin, we all met up at a little barbecue joint to have dinner. It was the night before our first hunt, and we were excited to all be together and share a couple days of hunting in a prime location for lesser Canadas and Specklebelly geese.

Every single one of us was from a different state—Illinois, California, Texas, North Carolina, Florida, Alabama and Nebraska. I'm sure you're wondering what in the world got us all together. Simply put, it was the power of social media. Each of us has a strong following on Instagram and had spoken through messages and comments before. From there, we had met at various trade shows and through companies that we worked with in the outdoor industry.

It would be our second year hunting together, plus or minus a few girls. It is my favorite trip of all, being in February and after everyone's hunting season was coming to an end. It always allows us to chat about our hunting stories of the year and plan for the following year.

The guys at Big Kansas Outdoors would be our guides for the next few days, and they didn't fall short of any expectations that we had. The first morning we had a 3 a.m. wake up call. After all seven of us girls spent time getting ready out of the one bathrooms that we had to share, we headed to the gas station for coffee and to meet the guides. We drove two trucks and spent 15 minutes that morning jamming out to '90s hits before the guides arrived. A hilarious, entertaining and oddly hyper morning, followed by our arrival to the winter wheat field that we would be hunting over.

The first day, we left the field with 40 geese and were ecstatic. The guide, Austin Moffet, did an impressive job at calling and getting the geese to land right on the spread where we wanted them. At one point, hundreds of geese were 20 yards above our heads and all around us. At this point my eyes were huge, my jaw dropped, and I tapped him on the shoulder to show him my excitement and eagerness. It was an incredible sight to say the least.

The second day, we were surprised when we arrived to see about a dozen people getting the blind and decoys set up. Unknowingly, Ben Webster had all of his guides come hunt with us. Hunting with 17 people is very rare, as it is difficult to hide that many hunters. At the same time, it's just that much more fun. They set us up in A-frame blinds, which made us essentially look like a standalone tree line. That day would be one for the books, one that none of us will ever forget. Not only did we see thousands of birds, the guides worked them all around us and ended the day with a 17-man limit. The mood that morning radiated. It would be the best hunt of our lives. The people, amount of birds, the atmosphere…it was unrivaled.

Throughout my life, I've mainly hunted with men—my grandpa, dad, uncles, etc. I'm still getting used to being with a group of girls who all share the same passion for the outdoors and hunting. It's not the norm, but we sure are working towards it. The conversations, the bellyaching laughs, the unforgettable memories that we made those two days. The friendships cultivated and the incredible hunts that we got to experience. That right there will go down in my history book.

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Courtney Smith
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620-200-4372

First Look – Lydia Staggs' "Rea," Book #2 in the Shamar Series

Local author and veterinarian **Lydia Staggs** *first appeared in* Beachcomber *in May 2016, shortly after the publication of* Shamar. *The second book in the series,* Rea, *is out now, and we thank the author for allowing us to print a short excerpt.*

Juliet's blood curdling screams penetrated the night air, sending waves of fear through the core of Gabriel's body. He ran towards the door from which the heart wrenching sounds were emanating. Even with his enhanced eyesight, the darkness swallowed his path. With every cry, he grew more and more desperate to find her. Reaching for the door, only to find it locked, Gabriel used the full force of his strength to break it down. As he entered the room his eyes scanned the area, searching for signs of life. The paltry space contained two people: a cloaked figure in black and Juliet lying at his feet. Deep cuts and punctures mapped her porcelain skin spilling out her precious red life force onto the floor. Her sobs were muffled now as the rise and fall of her chest was barely visible.

Gabriel fell to his knees and scooped Juliet into his arms, hugging her close to his chest. Her face was marred with pain as most of her skin had been ripped away exposing the underlying muscle. Only her sapphire eyes remained, and the vibrant life behind them was fading.

"Stay with me," pleaded Gabriel as he brushed back her blood covered hair.

There was no response as the dimness in her eyes became fixed. Gabriel's breath faltered as he heard the last beat of her heart with his ears. Clutching her, he cried out, the agony ripping through him like a knife.

His focus shifted to the ominous silhouette standing next to him. With great care, Gabriel lowered Juliet's limp body back onto the floor before leaping to confront the being that had brought this pain and death upon her. He slammed into the figure, sending his nemesis flying. Using his arm, he pinned the man against the wall just below the throat.

"Why?" screamed Gabriel.

A familiar laugh came from the man in black. Gabriel reached up and pushed back the hood hiding its face, causing him to falter. His mirror image stared back at him with cold, calculating eyes that met Gabriel's before bending his head back to laugh, exposing his fangs dripping with Juliet's blood.

Gabriel awoke drenched in sweat and sat straight up in bed. Reflexively, he reached out only to find a cold, empty space next to him. Still shaking off the last remnant of the dream, he looked around wildly to see where he was. After a few seconds of focusing on the immediate surroundings, his rapid breathing returned to normal. Realizing his claws had come out during the nightmare, he retracted them, transforming them back into the hands of a life-saving surgeon. Once again the sheets had become victims of his nightmare, and what now surrounded him were noodle-thin strips of cotton. Taking a closer look, he was thankful he hadn't damaged the underlying mattress this time.

After removing the tattered material from the bed, he made his way to the bathroom to wash the sweat from his face. The dreams were getting worse and more frequent...

Rea *is available now from local and online booksellers that know what they're doing.*

UPCOMING BOOKS

FEB. 28

David Baldacci, *The Width of the World (Vega Jane Book 3)*

George W. Bush, *Portraits of Courage: A Commander in Chief's Tribute to America's Warriors*

Tom Clavin, *Dodge City: Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson and the Wickedest Town in the American West*

William Daniels, *There I Go Again: How I Came to Be Mr. Feeny, John Adams, Dr. Craig, KITT and Many Others*

Joanne Fluke, *Banana Cream Pie Murder (Hannah Swensen Series)*

Faye Kellerman, *Bone Box: A Decker/Lazarus Novel*

Sid Luft, *Judy and I: My Life with Judy Garland*

MARCH 7

Erin Benzakein, *Floret Farm's Cut Flower Garden: Grow, Harvest and Arrange Stunning Seasonal Blooms*

Dan Chaon, *Ill Will*

Steven Curtis Chapman, *Between Heaven and the Real World: My Story*

Kay Hooper, *Wait for Dark (Bishop Special Crime Unit Series)*

Melissa Maker, *Clean My Space: The Secret to Cleaning Better, Faster, and Loving Your Home Every Day*

Joel C. Rosenberg, *Without Warning (J.B. Collins Series)*

Rachel Macy Stafford, *Only Love Today: Reminders to Breathe More, Stress Less, and Choose Love*

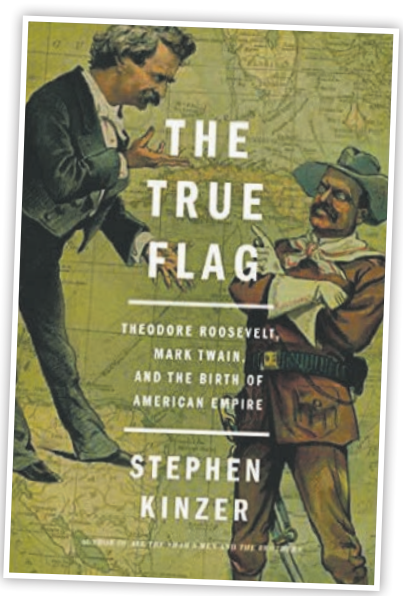
Sources: www.barnesandnoble.com, www.netgalley.com

Recommended Reading

Stephen Kinzer

The True Flag: Theodore Roosevelt, Mark Twain, and the Birth of American Empire

Henry Holt and Company



The cover of this book depicts Mark Twain and Theodore Roosevelt—Twain in evening clothes, TR in Rough Rider kit. *The True Flag* recounts one of this country's defining moments, the dawn of American overseas expansion. Anti-imperialism and colonialism are personified by these two men. If you want a meticulously non-heroic interpretation of Roosevelt, here it is. Kinzer's sympathies are evident, but he points out baser motives in both sides of the argument. Imperialist Capital wanted guaranteed overseas markets for American goods. Anti-imperialist Labor feared an influx of cheap foreign workers. Both sides were unashamedly racist and paternalistic. Sound familiar?

- Bruce Collier

Movies

OPENING SOON IN THEATERS

FEB. 24

Collide. Nicholas Hoult, Anthony Hopkins.
Get Out. Daniel Kaluuya, Allison Williams.
The Girl With All the Gifts. Gemma Arterton, Glenn Close.
Rock Dog. Animated; voices of J.K. Simmons, Luke Wilson.
Tulip Fever. Alicia Vikander, Christoph Waltz.

MARCH 3

Before I Fall. Zoey Deutch, Halston Sage.
The Last Word. Shirley MacLaine, Amanda Seyfried.
Logan. Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart.
The Shack. Sam Worthington, Radha Mitchell.
Table 19. Anna Kendrick, Craig Robinson.

UPCOMING DVD/ BLU-RAY/VOD RELEASES

FEB. 28

Deadtime Stories. Cathryn de Prume, Melissa Leo, Scott Valentine. Jeffrey Delman's '80s horror cult classic on Blu-ray.
Doctor Strange. Benedict Cumberbatch, Tilda Swinton.
Moonlight. Naomie Harris, Andre Holland. Best movie of 2016, according to our pal David Simmons.

MARCH 7

Colors. Robert Duvall and Sean Penn star in this 1988 cops and gangs flick. Blu-ray includes unrated cut of the Dennis Hopper-helmed film.
Jackie. Natalie Portman, Peter Sarsgaard.
Moana. Animated; voices of Auli'I Cravalho, Dwayne Johnson.

Source: www.rottentomatoes.com

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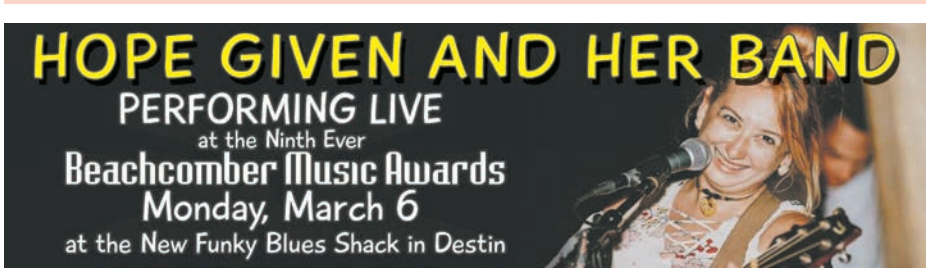


Of Angels and Actors

By Alicia Leonard

"You're not really going to do that play are you? Do something fun and light, maybe a musical. It would be good for ticket sales, and you'd probably get a big audition crowd," I yammered. He didn't respond. He did what he wanted, just like me. Never deterred. It was worth a shot, I thought. His back was to me, looking for something in his closet. He finally turned and said very simply, "You should read it" before leaving the room.

We had gone the long route. Colleagues in other productions, as actor and director, as friends sitting outside a little Coffee Shoppe in Niceville on Wednesday nights, solving the world's problems one cup at a time for a few years before our socks and toothbrushes became commingled.

Theater came to me late and in strange ways, a totally unexpected guest that set up house as a convolution of coincidence and professionally trained mentors pulling me onstage, and providing me willing wings to huddle under and learn. It was not what I ever expected to do.

My mom wanted to be the actor, and her niece actually did it, graduating from Berkeley and Drama Studio London (DSL). But I auditioned and got cast, time after time, slowly accepting the directors saw something I didn't. The applause? I'd just as soon not take a curtain, something that makes my greatest mentor shudder and give me stink eye. For me, it quickly became about the people I got to create with. It was the process. It took me 30 years to find my tribe, and they were and still are the most amazing and glorious creatures in my eyes.

"Stay with me." He knew something was wrong. "I don't want to lose you." A few weeks later, I said "yes" to the role of wife and patient. A few months later, I covered an emergency role for him when an actor dropped out right before opening. I never stepped foot on stage again.

They found the tumor that fall. One in a million, they said. A pheochromocytoma. My body had been in extended periods of fight or flight from enormous amounts of adrenalin being dumped into my blood stream for years. They could medicate me so I would not drop dead from a heart attack before or during surgery. One operation and I get my life back, I thought. I got this.

Two weeks later—a week before my surgery and with a bloodstream full of alpha-blockers to keep me from going into cardiac arrest—I, an only child, buried my mom. She died suddenly, and most unexpectedly. I was 15 minutes from the hospital when she let go. I felt the cord snap. We never got to say goodbye. She took the role of mother instead of actor, and I can never repay her. We unknowingly shared the disease.

In a little tiny church in Alabama, I stood in front of her coffin. A rush of air like wings before I turned to see the double doors fly open and a sea of familiar faces in black from the Mattie Kelly Art's Center. The technical crew and students that I had worked with the last five years, led by Bob Whittaker, had gotten into a van and driven to the middle of nowhere to stand with me and him while I said goodbye. It was the last time I saw them all together. It was the last time we were all together.

They took out the tumor. More surgeries followed. I started having to say goodbye to more and more people I loved while I just lingered. Best friends, family, beloved pets, taken one by one. I lost all hope I would ever be well enough to go back. That part of my life was over, and then…

A second cancer, a myeloproliferative neoplasm, rare as the tumor, but in my blood, gave way to a divine intervention in human form. A friend from an online support group for rare cancers told a doctor about me. We shared the disease, but differently. Close to midnight a few days later, my plane landed in Washington, and I was shuttled into a waiting car heading to Bethesda, where armed guards greeted me at the gates of the National Institutes of Heath.

The doctor offered me a new role to play if I would give them my DNA. It could maybe help others, maybe help find a cure, he said. I didn't hesitate. I said yes. Since then, every spring instead of doing a Shakespeare like I once did, I went to get scanned, stuck and studied. Year before last, I got to spend a week with about 12 others similar to me. They had found about 20 of us in the world at that time, and the ones that were willing came together. I am what they call one of one still, until they can find my genetic match.

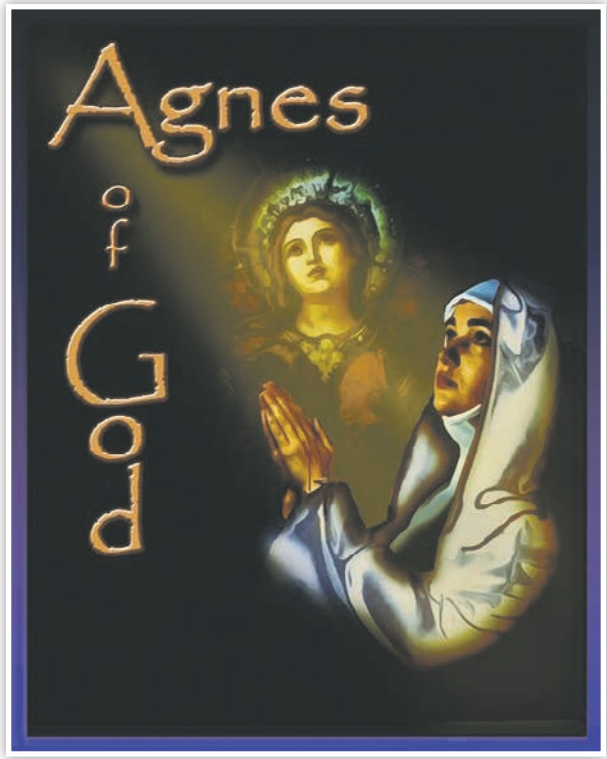
Between the treatment to keep my cell counts down (good old-fashioned bloodletting, ,since I'm one of the five percent without the mutations for MPNs) and the couple of weeks I spent at NIH every year I have been blessed to continued to write and edit for the amazing and supportive work family I have at the *DeFuniak Springs Herald Beach Breeze.* My newspaper family gave me time to rest and test and try to fight my way back to some type of life.

Oh, and him. Working, teaching, directing and being a great husband, but our lives were different. We lost something we loved to share. He had been waiting. Waiting to see if the fire came back. If I came back.

I spent a night last fall poring over scripts for a two-woman show. I had started to feel that hunger to make something with others again, to go to the deep end where my toes don't touch. To just try to live again instead of just trying not to die. As I looked, I kept coming across that script. That play. His play. Damn it.

"Can you bring me a photocopy home if you have an extra?" I asked as innocently as possible as he started to work a few days later. A slight smirk, a nod, and he walked out the door. That weekend, I read it in an hour or so. Roles for actresses in their 40 and 60s were rare, and all three of these had meat on their bones. And I was suitable for one the oldest two roles. What if I just tried?

I was green the day of auditions, and chose one of the least performed monologues from the show to go along with my unusually nervous shade. I signed in, number nine in line, drew a smiley face and hair on my number (cause that's what I do) and tried to look at my script rather than who was showing up.



I counted the actors my age—three or four, maybe five. Small crowd. Good for actors, bad for directors. I went in, shook hands with the crew full of new faces, felt my feet sink into the floor that has my tears, sweat and occasional blood from past shows intertwined in it and just said my words. Then I ran straight into the back hall like my hair was on fire, hyperventilating a few minutes before a black shirt with a Bob in it appeared.

"You okay?" he asked. I looked up at his friendly and familiar face and the first time in six years I responded, "Yeah. I was nervous as hell, but I think I might be okay. I might really be okay."

A few days later, on my way to cover a meeting, Assistant Director Josh Birdsong got to hear me scream like a tiny school girl in his ear for five minutes after offering me a role. I said yes.

Starting March 8, I have the honor of sharing a stage with two amazing and glorious creatures, the immensely talented duo of Abby Bonilla and Sarah Coleman. Under the direction of Professor Clint Mahle and Assistant Director Josh Birdsong, along with the watchful eye of Stage Manager Annie Borella, Assistant Stage Manager Megan Rambo and a great number of other talented crew and students yet to be announced, I'll attempt one of the hardest roles in my life, the role of Dr. Martha Livingstone in *Agnes of God.*

She is difficult, not due to size of role or time on stage, but because it will be a feat to portray an atheist knowing one is standing on a stage in the center of a house full of angels like those at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center. I'm praying for a miracle. It won't be the first one I've ever gotten, and that alone is worth the price of a ticket.

Northwest Florida State College presents Agnes of God *at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center in Niceville's Sprint Theater* **March 8-12.** *Tickets are available at* **MattieKellyArtsCenter.org.** *The play contains adult language and content.*

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Mike Buckingham on BBQ, DNA and the Future of Destin

Interviewed by Charles Morgan III
Photos by Chris Manson

Mike Buckingham *left home in Madeira Beach at the age of 17 and started working for himself. He arrived on the scene in Destin in 1985 with two trucks and a suitcase.*

He knocked on doors, made phone calls, applied for projects with cities, counties, developers and engineers. He offered to do anything that needed to be done.

He started his business Florida Septic and Sewer and ran it for 20 years until he sold it. He continued to work in projects involving infrastructure—roads and utilities. He started Coastal Underground and sold it two years later. He then started Underground, Inc.

Buckingham opened **Buck's Almost Famous Smokehouse** *in Destin last year. He started working when he was a teenager, and he never stopped.*

You've done a lot of stuff. You know everyone. You seem to know how to do anything—at least, you act like you do—from building to barbecue.

Interview

You cut a wide swath. Do you have some sort of weird philosophy that you follow?
My philosophy is simple. *If man's done it once, I can do it again.* I'm pretty much old school. You ask me to do something, I do it, I get paid. Pretty simple. My success has been built on relationships. You can trust me when I tell you I'm going to do something.

There's a little more to it than that. You stay really busy. Where does the energy come from?
The energy is in my DNA. My mom and dad both stayed busy. I've got a lot of outside interests—I usually get pulled into projects by helping people—and one thing leads to another. We started Buck's BBQ for fun, and to stay busy. I'm always looking for the eighth day in the week.

You've gone from septic tanks to barbecue—probably not a common progression.
My wife Michelle enjoys it. Everyone loves working with her. Colt, my 17-year-old son, could run the restaurant—he can do anything. We've done really well. We built the store, did the research, nailed the recipes, put the menu together. It's been fun. We enjoy feeding people.

What is Mike Buckingham going to be doing in five years? Ten years?
I'm going to the Virgin Islands next week to look for a place. Colt starts school at Auburn next year. We're moving into a new house we built next month. I'm hoping that Michelle and I can spend more time together.

What is Destin going to look like in five years? Ten years?
I'm hoping that Mr. Morgan is wrong, but he might be right. We're not a fishing village anymore. The demographics have changed. If we don't allow another monstrous development, we have a chance of possibly bringing our demographics back to where they were.

I think my mother likes you more than she likes me. How did that happen?
Your mom called me one day because her house was flooded. I've always had a soft spot for elderly people. I showed up with a crew and with pumps, and we took care of it.

Over the years, what projects have you been involved in?
I did the beach re-nourishment after Hurricane Opal. I've repaired or replaced almost the entire infrastructure in Destin. Sidewalks, streets, underground stuff, landscaping. I've built houses and a lot of the offices and warehouses in Destin.

You probably know the ins and outs of this city better than anyone, on lots of levels.
I love to help the city. My goal is to help people, because I've been blessed. I'm a firm believer in the guy upstairs.

Your Own Little Italy on the Destin Harbor

As winter morphs into spring—and all that follows—there's still time to try some of the many restaurants that crowd the HarborWalk area. The view is still great, the parking is still there for the taking, and the restaurant staffs are still delighted to see you.

With that in mind, my family and I ventured out on a recent chilly weeknight to **Bella Sera Bistro.** The restaurant occupies a ground floor, and through the windows you can see the warmly lit interior. The blue and white awning reads "Italian Restaurant," and if that won't pull you in on a hungry February night, you must have had a big lunch.

We were greeted on entry, and our hostess drew instant favor by telling my six-year-old daughter Grace (the Tiny Diner) that she looked like a princess. I agree, but my prejudice is ironclad, so I like hearing it from others. TD is polishing her restaurant manners, and these polite little exchanges go a long way. The hostess thoughtfully seated us at a table that offered TD and her working Daddy a perfect view of the dining room.

Bella Sera's main dining room is rectangular, with tables neatly lining the walls and a line of seating down the middle. It's simple and orderly. Floors are polished wood, one wall is lined with wine racks and bottles, and there's a small bar with a few seats toward the back. The decor is likewise simple, symmetrical and calming. Co-owner David Seering has installed a mini-stage at the end opposite the bar, and the piano is not there just for display.

The menu offers appetizers, a list of pasta and pasta specialties, salads, fish and seafood, meat, and a separate menu of assorted house pizzas. In addition to a la carte, there's an "Italian Family Style" option featuring a chef's choice starter, two pastas, and a meat course. At $32.95 for two diners, it looks like a good deal.

We started with an order of fried ravioli, served with marinara. We got eight hot, crunchy pouches filled with creamy ricotta and herbs, and the tangy marinara nicely balanced the richness of the ravioli. Even TD, who is not quite as venturesome as I hope she will become, was tempted to try one, and enjoyed it thoroughly.

Other apps include meatballs, fried calamari, bruschetta, fried mozzarella sticks, mussels diavola (with spicy crushed tomato sauce), and shrimp al forno (baked with seasoned breadcrumbs). There's an antipasto listed among the salads, and a daily soup.

The range of pasta dishes is wide, and you can go light or more substantial. My wife and I were hungry. I chose ravioli al aragosta (lobster) with vodka cream sauce. My wife ordered cappellini Toscana—pasta with shrimp, artichokes, capers, olives, mushrooms, roasted peppers, garlic and olive oil. TD played it safe, ordering the chicken strips. Oh well.

Mr. Seering took the stage, and moved smoothly through a mellow playlist that included songs made famous by Paul Anka, Neil Diamond, James Taylor and Jimmy Buffett. He livened the mood, sparked friendly conversation, and his cover of "Put Your Head on My Shoulder" went perfectly with the food.

The entrees came. Lobster ravioli is always risky for me—I have impossibly high expectations with lobster. Bella Sera delivered. The filling was generous—sweet and satisfying. The tomato tinged vodka cream sauce had exactly the right tangy balance, and the lumps of shrimp scattered on top did not bother me a bit either. My wife's cappellini was picture-perfect, an expertly composed plate of food incorporating sweet (shrimp), smoky (roasted pepper), salty (olives, capers and artichokes), and meaty (mushrooms).

Other options include rigatoni with sausage, fettuccine Alfredo, linguine with meatballs, stuffed shells, meat or cheese ravioli, lasagna, linguine Bolognese, ravioli with kale and spinach, manicotti, linguine with mixed seafood, blackened salmon, baked sea bass, fried seafood, chicken parmesan, piccata, marsala or valdostana, mixed cacciatore pasta, filet mignon, or lamb chops alla Toscana.

The desserts offered that night were cheesecake, chocolate cake, tiramisu and cannoli. My wife declined dessert, so TD and I heeded Clemenza's advice and took the cannoli. She'd never tried it and was full of questions, then full of cannoli. You get two, with dense creamy ricotta and chocolate chip filling. Just right, just enough.

"Bella Sera" means "beautiful evening," and both kitchen and staff take that seriously. It's a warm little enclave and an excellent choice for a family meal, or that much-needed romantic evening.

BELLA SERA BISTRO

2 Harbor Blvd., Suite 200
HarborWalk Village,
Destin
850-424-6425

Hours: Open Mon.-Sat. at 5 p.m.

Reservations: Accepted

Children's Menu: Yes

Dress: Casual

Here's that "beautiful evening" you've been missing, with wine, lovingly prepared Italian food, music and whatever else the night may bring. Bella Sera offers a variety of traditional pasta, seafood, chicken and meat dishes, pizza, salads and house specialties. Ingredients are fresh, service is friendly, and Beachcomber Music Award winner David Seering is waiting to play for you. Wine and craft cocktails, $6-30.

Sippin' on the Doc's of the Bayou

By Joni Williams

Many people think of Valparaiso as that "blink and you'll miss it" town, passed through on the way to Eglin's East Gate. But locals know it truly is a gorgeous paradise with waterfront parks, fishing piers and public boat launches. Val-P also hosts glorious sunsets over the bayou.

As if these weren't reasons reason enough to visit, we've found one more—**Doc's Oyster Bar.**

Tucked directly behind the Compass Rose, Doc's is a bayou-fronted shanty offering superb, quick eats and some of the friendliest staff we've ever met. Plus they have a surprisingly extensive beer list, as well as top-notch wines and specialty cocktails.

Besides indoor seating and an outdoor deck poised directly above the water, there's a sweet, garden-like seating area almost hidden on the lower level. Date night, anyone? No need to go Dutch out of fear of a high bill, either, as the food menu here is affordable. Fresh, raw oysters are $12.99 a dozen or $8.99 for a half. Specialty oysters can be had for $9.99 and include gourmet twists such as black and blue, grilled, or "Doc-A-Feller" (not Rockefeller, mind you) with cream cheese, spinach and artichokes.

Despite their name, they offer a wide range of eats such as po'boys, fish tacos, wings and plenty of munchies. Even if you're not hungry when you arrive, the tantalizing smell wafting out of the kitchen may be too tempting to resist. We weren't there five minutes before we caved and ordered a generous mound of their outrageously tasty smoked tuna dip.

Of course, we knocked back a few brews, too, starting with the lovely, deep golden **Floridian** by Funky Buddha, perfect for watching a neon sunset melt into the bayou. Fruity and sparked with clove, there's enough banana and malt to keep it ever-so-slightly sweet, and enough hops for balance. Though it's unfiltered, it didn't appear hazy or heavily sedimented. Not a fan of wheat beer? You may take a shining to this one, due to its interesting, almost IPA-like flavor notes.

We switched to the oh-so-easy-to-drink **Props Blonde Bomber** that made an oh-so-good pairing with the smoked tuna dip, which we scarfed down to the very last speck. So much for not being hungry. Doc's smokes their seafood and meats onsite, and you can taste the delicious difference.

Truth is, they had us at hello. That's when we got a look at the beer lists and realized a small town location does not equal small beer selection. Doc's offers a well-rounded variety of domestics, imports and local brews bottled and on tap, including local faves like Yuengling, Red Stripe, Grayton, Stella Artois and Corona, as well as the classics—Bud, Miller, PBR and Coors.

Draft beer choices include Blue Moon Belgian White and Sam Adams' newbie, Hopscape, besides distinguished crafts like Lazy Magnolia, Funky Buddha and Highland. But the customer faves here, we're told, are the locally brewed Props Blonde Bomber and Flying Coffin IPA.

The daily Happy Hour will save you a buck on drafts, three on wine. Mixed drinks are discounted $2.50 and offers some original libations, like **Sex on Tom's Bayou** (not the beach), made with peach schnapps; and our top pick, their version of the **Moscow Mule** using ginger beer as a base.

On weekends, there's no-cover live music featuring the likes of Rusty Hammerstrom, BT Turner and other local artists. All this and a waterfront view, too. Don't blink, and don't miss it. Doc's Oyster Bar & Grill is worth a trip to Val-P with eyes wide open.

Clean Eatz – A Healthy Alternative

By Samantha Lambert

Are you trying to lose a few pounds? Do you have a health condition that requires you to watch your sugar and sodium? Are you a busy mom or dad who wants your family to eat healthy meals? Would you rather have a healthy alternative for lunch rather than a fast food burger? Then Clean Eatz in Shalimar is the place for you.

Clean Eatz was founded in 2013 with the simple mission of providing people a healthy place to eat. The Clean Eatz at 1191 Eglin Parkway in Shalimar is owned and managed by **Zach and Lydia McIntosh.** The McIntoshes met in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and were married in 2013. They frequented the Clean Eatz in Myrtle Beach while living there and became very interested in the concept. Lydia has a background in health and nutrition, while Zach has a business background.

In March 2016, the couple began researching opening a Clean Eatz franchise in the Florida Panhandle. After much research, they decided to move forward with the franchise. They then did a month of training in the Myrtle Beach store. In the meantime, they began looking for locations for their new venture. The McIntoshes found a great location for their business in Shalimar and signed the lease in August.

"We were the thirteenth Clean Eatz franchise to open," says Zach. "There are 15 on the East Coast." said Zach. The couple spent August through November renovating the building. They had a family and friends opening event on November 30, 2016, and then did a soft opening for the public December 1.

"We had a nice, steady pace of customers on that first day," says Lydia. "We did not do any advertising except for word of mouth and social media."

"The momentum kept building," Zach adds. "We also went to local gyms to advertise our business and did an event at the Emerald Coast Home Show."

Menu options at Clean Eatz have no sugar or added sodium, are low in fat, under 500 calories, and affordable. The goal is to give you the tools you need for a healthy lifestyle by preparing properly portioned sized meals with a balance of protein, carbs and fats.

The Clean Eatz Meal Plan offers many options for meals at home. Customers can order online and pick up their meals on Monday for the week. Options range from five meals for $38 to 21 meals for $128.

Some of the favorites on the Clean Eatz Meal Plan include Chicken Parm, with whole wheat pasta, grilled chicken breast marinara sauce and shredded mozzarella; BBQ Chicken Flatbread, with peppers, onions and mozzarella cheese; and Lowcountry Boil with shrimp, low fat sausage and corn. Menus change every Thursday.

Customers can also order a custom diet online at **cleaneatz.com/custom.** "You can pick a protein, a carb, veggie, vegan, or vegetarian option and pick your portions," says Lydia. "Whatever you're looking for, we can do it." Customers can also pick up a breakfast entrée in the Grab and Go freezer. Breakfast entrees will soon be added to the online menu.

For customers who want to drop in for lunch or dinner, there are plenty of healthy and delicious options. The Build a Bowl option lets you choose your protein, up to three veggies, a carb and sauce. Clean Eatz burgers include an Atlas Burger with a salmon patty, a Skinny Burger with a bison patty, and the homemade vegetarian Garden Burger. Clean Eatz also offers a kids' meal and healthy desserts such as trail nut fudge and oatmeal based energy bars.

Tisha Pierceall has been coming to Clean Eatz since it opened. She has Type 1 diabetes and is insulin dependent. Before every meal, she must add up the carbs in her meal to calculate how much insulin she will need to administer.

"The pre-planned meals at Clean Eatz have the number of carbs listed on each meal," she says. "It's great for someone like me. I order my meals each week, and they are wonderful. I am eating better and controlling my blood sugar. Plus, Zach and Lydia are so helpful."

"Clean Eatz is a fun business," says Lydia. "We never imagined we would be doing this together."

Zach adds: "We are blessed to be in this situation. People are saving time and money. We are also providing a healthy alternative for our community."

Clean Eatz is open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The restaurant is closed on Sundays.

Vargo Appointed New Exec Chef at Hilton Sandestin

Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa, the largest full-service beachfront resort hotel on Northwest Florida's Gulf Coast, has appointed **Dan Vargo** as the new executive chef for the property.

In his new position, Chef Vargo will blend Baltimore's traditional and historical influences, Martha's Vineyard's emphasis on organic produce and seasonal seafood, and the Ritz-Carlton's world-class standards for fine dining and excellence in service into the Hilton Sandestin Beach experience.

Chef Vargo started his journey at Hilton Sandestin Beach in April 2012 as executive chef at Seagar's Prime Steaks & Seafood, the resort's AAA Four-Diamond restaurant.

"With his vast knowledge and numerous accolades, Chef Vargo will undoubtedly enhance our already exceptional culinary team at Hilton Sandestin Beach," says General Manager **Gary Brielmayer.** "Our experience with Chef Vargo at Seagar's was outstanding, and we're eager to put his considerable talents to work for all our resort guests."

Prior to his time at Seagar's Prime Steaks & Seafood at Hilton Sandestin Beach, Chef Vargo dedicated eight years to the Ritz-Carlton in Naples, Florida, where he worked as Executive Sous Chef and Restaurant Chef. He also spent two years as Executive Sous Chef at the Boathouse Club in Martha's Vineyard.

Vargo has been featured on *Emeril's Florida, Atlanta Eats* and Golf Channel's *Morning Drive with Matt Ginella,* and at events such as BlogHer Food in Miami, Music City Food & Wine Festival in Nashville, and Boudin, Bourbon and Beer in New Orleans. Chef Vargo was selected as the People's Choice winner in the 2013 inaugural 30A Throwdown competition and Critics Choice winner in the 2014 competition.

Graduating with honors from Baltimore International College in 2002, Chef Vargo earned a prestigious internship through the American Studies Institute in Ireland with the Park Hotel. Chef Vargo was also selected as a member of Ritz-Carlton's domestic and international recruiting team sent to South Africa and Peru, where he cooked for orphanages and shelters.

- Sarah Weaver

Restaurant Guide

If your favorite restaurant isn't listed here, let us know by dropping an email to us at **chris@beachcomberdestin.com!**

AMERICAN

CALLAHAN'S A long-time favorite of Destin locals, Callahan's Restaurant & Deli lives up to its name, offering one of the town's most varied selections of deli sandwiches, salads, and full-on meals, with everything from quiche to barbecue. Steaks and chops are a perennial favorite, along with comforting meals of pot roast, prime rib, seafood platters, and some fancier regular and special items. Lunch and dinner; beer, wine and mixed drinks, $3-20. 791 Harbor Blvd., Destin, 850-837-6328/837-7171. **www.callahansdestin.com. www.facebook.com/callahansdestin.**

CHARLIE'S BURGER BAR Destin's first true burger bar has it all - Burgers, Bourbon and Beer! Charlie's has a selection of 17 different burgers from lamb, Black Angus, wild boar, bison, even Ostrich. If you don't want one of the already built burgers, make your own. Select the bun you would like, than the protein, pick your cheese and your sides. The soon to be famous deep fried pickles are to die for. Or live a little and go for Charlie's Funky Fries topped with different types of cheeses. Happy hour daily from 3-6 p.m. Open at 3 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. $3-32, HarborWalk Village, Destin, inside the Crab Island Cantina Complex, 850-424-7695. **www.CharliesBurgerBar.com.**

HOOTERS Wings, shrimp, burgers and more. Open 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sun.-Thu., 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Fri. and Sat. Happy hour Mon.-Fri., 3-6 p.m. and 9 p.m.-close. 15015 Emerald Coast Parkway, Destin, 850-654-1007. **hootersonline.com**.

ASIAN

LIN'S ASIAN CUISINE Enjoy carefully prepared and artfully served Chinese and Southeast Asian dishes in a pleasant and welcoming a.m.sphere. Chicken, beef, pork, duck, fish and shellfish are cooked to suit most tastes, and Lin's offers your favorites—General Tso's chicken, Mongolian beef, pad thai, lo mein and kung pao, among many others. Beer and wine. $2-15. 130 Scenic Gulf Dr. #5B, Miramar Beach, 850-424-5888.

BARBEQUE

LILLIE'S Q Award-winning on the national level barbecue restaurant located at 9848 Hwy. 98 W., Miramar Beach, approximately seven miles east of the Mid Bay Bridge. We offer barbecue that represents all areas of the U.S., such as pulled pork, baby back ribs, smoked chicken breast and beef tri-tip (sliced sirloin). All meat products are slow smoked using natural wood and lump charcoal. Seven sauce choices with delicious side orders and the best banana pudding in the Panhandle. We offer a wrap around porch. No inside seating. Hours: Tue.-Sat., 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Call ahead orders welcomed! 850-654-3911.

BREAKFAST & MORE

ANOTHER BROKEN EGG CAFÉ is the Emerald Coast's premier breakfast, brunch and lunch destination. Sip on one of our award-winning, house infused Bloody Marys while you dine on breakfast classics, memorable brunch dishes or lunchtime favorites. Grand Boulevard – 755 Grand Boulevard, Suite B-107, Miramar Beach, 850-424-3416. Sandestin – 9100 Baytowne Wharf Boulevard, Suite A-4, 850-622-2050. **www.anotherbrokenegg.com.**

ASIAGO'S SKILLET There's no place like it. Open daily from midnight till noon. Try your hand at our one-of-a-kind Crab Cake Benny, mouth watering Bananas Foster French Toast or our classic American Breakfast. We've got something for everyone. Plus, don't miss out on our Build Your Own Bloody Mary Bar, complete with infused vodkas, every weekend. Truly breakfast at its best. 110 Amberjack Drive, Okaloosa Island, 850-586-7998. New location in Destin! 300 Harbor Blvd., 850-424-4160. **www.facebook.com/asiago.skillet**.

BLUE COLLAR CAFE Made to order breakfast and lunch served all day. House made bagels. Full coffee bar with Maas coffee and espresso roasted at the cafe. Home of the famous BOB (breakfast on a bagel) and New York style lox and house-mixed cream cheese. Salads and sides, homemade scones and sweets. Open Mon.-Fri., 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. 104 Hollywood Blvd. SW, Fort Walton Beach.

CAMILLE'S CAFE Start your day with coffee and breakfast. We feature fluffy eggs, cinnamon rolls, apple pie muffins, fresh juice and smoothies. For lunch, enjoy our fresh caught tuna salad on an Asiago cheese bagel, Sriracha turkey sandwich or Mediterranean chicken salad sandwich. Plus all day Bloody Marys, mimosas, beer, and daiquiris made with fresh-squeezed juice. Join our party! 2931 Scenic Highway 98, Destin, 850-337-8860.

THE DONUT HOLE Breakfast, donuts, sandwiches, salads, burgers and more. 635 U.S. 98 E, Destin, 850-837-8824.

THE DONUT HOLE 6745 U.S. 98 W, Santa Rosa Beach, 850-267-3239.

THE DONUT HOLE 12983 U.S. 98 E, Inlet Beach, 850-213-3127.

THE LOCAL MARKET Open 7 a.m.-3 p.m. daily. Fresh pressed juices, coffee, breakfast, gourmet sandwiches, homemade ice cream and more. 950 Gulf Shore Drive, Destin, 850-460-8979.

THE PANCAKERY Serving breakfast and lunch daily from 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. Featuring build your own pancakes and omelettes! Waffles, French Toast, crepes, benedicts, bananas foster and all traditional breakfast items. Also, lunch menu includes sandwiches, burgers, salads, wraps, and loaded potatoes. Now serving bloody marys, mimosas and cold beer. 960 Hwy 98 East, Suite 104, Destin. 850-269-0791.

TOMMY MATTONIE'S Looking for upscale breakfast options? We offer 13 different Eggs Benedicts and numerous specialty waffles. Trip Advisor honored us with a Certificate of Excellence for 2015. Our list of New Orleans style po-boys for lunch is just as extensive as the Eggs Benedict selections. We serve only local fresh bay shrimp and offer some of the best slow smoked BBQ in FWB. We also serve salads, Floribbean tacos, soups and daily specials. Check Facebook for our daily specials. Open 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. every day except Mondays. Located at 723 Eglin Parkway NE in FWB near the Shalimar Bridge. 850-862-0895. **www.tommymattonies.com.**

BURGERS

CHARLIE'S BURGER BAR Burgers, bourbon and beer. Pick from 18 burgers or build your own. Over 50 beers and bourbons, funky French fries, milk shakes for all ages. Located at 2 Harbor Blvd. in HarborWalk Village's Crab Island Cantina Complex, Destin, 850-424-7695.

CASUAL DINING

FUDPUCKER'S BEACHSIDE BAR & GRILL – DESTIN Find out why Fudpucker's is #1 for Food and Fun. Fud's has offered great food, live alligators and world famous t-shirts in a fun filled family atmosphere since 1982. Family entertainment is offered nightly with **The Fudnominals** interactive dance team, and Teen Night is held every Thursday and Friday. Download the Fud app for daily deals on food, drinks and merchandise. 20001 Emerald Coast Parkway, across from Henderson Beach State Park. Call 850-654-4200 or visit us at **www.fudpucker.com.**

HOG'S BREATH CAFE A local favorite located in the heart of Destin, Hog's Breath offers a varied menu selection, from seafood tacos to BBQ platters. Sit inside or enjoy the beautiful Emerald Coast weather, all while listening to live local entertainment. Fun for the entire family. Open daily, 11 a.m. until 2 a.m. 541 Harbor Blvd., Destin, 850-837-5991. "Hog's Breath is better than no breath at all!" **www.hogsbreath.com/destin.**

CATERING

BIG RED TRUCK Specializing in private events and full service catering. 850-737-1185. **www.destinfoodtrucks.com.**

COFFEE SHOPS

MAAS COFFEE ROASTERS Fresh roasted beans of origin, roasted in different profiles. Specialty coffee roasters for 10 years. "Once you go Maas, you'll never go 'Bucks!" Fresh made pastries and bagels, FREE WiFi. Open Mon.-Sat., 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 150 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach, across from the Indian Temple Mound Museum. 850-585-0496.

CONTEMPORARY

BUD & ALLEY'S This Seaside perennial just keeps getting better. Lunch and dinner daily, with a varying menu offering grilled, roasted, and sautéed fish and shellfish, quail, chicken, pork, and plenty of interesting accompaniments. Full bar, $4-34. 2236 CR30A East, Seaside, 850-231-5900.

LOUIS LOUIS Louis Louis is another dining hit. This "sister" restaurant to the famous Red Bar offers a short but all-star menu of fish, chicken, pork, crab cakes and pasta entrees, served in fat portions by a friendly staff. Do whatever you have to do, but don't skip dessert. Colorful décor, comfy tables, full bar, $5-25. 35 Mussett Bayou Rd., Santa Rosa Beach, 850-267-1500.

ECLECTIC

CAFÉ THIRTY-A Cafe Thirty-A has been here a while. Finding out why can be a delicious experience. A nightly-changing menu offers steaks, chicken, pork, lamb, and local seafood elegantly prepared with imaginative sauces and sides, courteously served in a beautiful beach-house a.m.sphere. Lobster bisque, stone crab claws, seasonal fish and shellfish, and wood oven-baked pizzas. Full bar. $8-36. 3899 E. Scenic Highway 30-A, Seagrove Beach, 850-231-2166.

THE RED BAR The place to go—and say you went—in Grayton Beach. The Red Bar offers breakfast, lunch and dinner, with a short but expertly prepared menu of sandwiches, soup and salads for lunch, chicken, local fish, pasta and crab cakes for dinner. The apple dumpling will haunt you, in a good way. Live music, and more local color than you'll know what to do with. Full bar, $4-21. 70 Hotz Avenue, Grayton Beach, 850-231-1008. **www.theredbar.com.**

VIN'TIJ Wine boutique and bistro. Wonderful food, service and a.m.sphere. Great approach to wine service offering Flight or tasters of unique varietals. Open daily for lunch or dinner plus a well stocked retail wine shop. $5-19, 10859 Emerald Coast Pkwy, Destin, 650-9820.

FOOD TRUCKS

BIG RED TRUCK Gulf to table certified seafood, fresh fish tacos, high end comfort food on the move. We specialize in private events and full service catering. Daily specials and locations on Facebook. 850-737-1185. **www.destinfoodtrucks.com.**

GERMAN/AMERICAN

FOKKERS PUB German sausages and homemade schnitzels go great with German beer! Brick oven pizza, grilled or fried wings, burgers, sandwiches and salad bar – there's something for everyone! Live music Wednesdays and Fridays. Located at 215 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE Unit #1 in Downtown Fort Walton Beach. 850-244-6666.

HEALTHY DINING

GEORGE'S AT ALYS BEACH Established in 2008, George's has offered regional coastal fare infused with global flavors to the quaint town of Alys Beach. We craft all of our dishes using locally sourced organic produce and the freshest seafood available, and present each with a generous helping of love. Our dishes fall into two categories—Behave and Misbehave. The Behave section features organic, spa-inspired dishes, while the Misbehave side touts traditional beach fare like fried seafood baskets and po-boys. The menu is rounded out with a thoughtfully curated wine list and a selection of decadent desserts. Our charming beach cottage provides the perfect backdrop for a casual dinner with friends and family. Dine indoors in our airy yet cozy dining room, or soak in the beautiful Florida sunshine on our front deck or screened porches. Open 11 a..-3 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. 30 Castle Harbour Dr., Panama City Beach, 850-641-0017, **georgesatalysbeach.net.**

IRISH

JOHNNY MCTIGHE'S Ireland on Scenic 30-A, a unique outpost of food and drink in Santa Rosa Beach. McTighe's opens at 11 a.m. and closes at 2 a.m. the next day. In between, the all-day menu offers an Irish grand slam of a breakfast, fish and chips, wings, pizza, and an array of hearty sandwiches, including Irish reuben, Philly cheese steak, burgers, chicken and hot dogs. There's even Maine lobster bisque. Full bar, $4 - 21. 2298 Scenic Highway 30-A West, Santa Rosa Beach, 850-267-0101. **www.johnnymctighesirishpub.com.**

ITALIAN

TUSCANY ITALIAN BISTRO Authentic Italian cuisine includes pasta, freshest seafood, tender veal and more. A true taste of Italy--beautiful Italian decor with handpainted murals. Live Entertainment by Eclipse (Don and Amanda), Special Happy Hour from 5-8. 36178 Emerald Coast Pkwy. Next to City Market in Destin. 850-650-2451.

LATIN / MEXICAN

CRAB ISLAND CANTINA Traditional and not so traditional Mexican and Latin food, featuring snapper enchiladas, grouper tacos, and award-winning seafood chorizo gumbo. Great

Restaurant Guide

selection of seafood dishes and Black Angus steaks, and all are big portions so make sure you're hungry. Spacious dining area, multiple bars, even a fountain, plus the view of Destin Bridge and the East Pass. Full bar, wide choice of margaritas and beers, $4-28, HarborWalk Village, Destin, inside the Crab Island Cantina Complex. 850-424-7417. **www.CrabIslandCantina.com.**

LA COCINA MEXICAN GRILL & BAR Since 2009, La Cocina has served traditional Tex-Mex fare with a coastal twist in a fun, festive atmosphere. We prepare all of our dishes from scratch using the freshest ingredients available. La Cocina is nestled between Rosemary Beach and Alys Beach in Seacrest Beach. Menu highlights include Tacos de Camerones with grilled shrimp, shredded lettuce, habanero pickled onions and feta cheese; the Pollo Fundido with shredded chicken and sour cream (chimichanga style) topped with cheese; and the Lobster Quesadilla with lobster, crab, shrimp and cheese topped with chipotle aioli and fruit salsa. Saturdays and Sundays, enjoy $7 specialty cocktails during football season. Open 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. 10343 East CR-30A, Panama City Beach, 850-231-4021, **lacocina30a.net.**

LA PAZ offers just about anything you'd want from a Mexican-Southwestern kitchen, including tamales, tacos, fajitas, burritos, enchiladas and quesadillas, plus a thoughtfully prepared list of grilled local fish and shellfish and imaginative spins on classics. Daily dinner specials, full bar. $15-25. 950 Gulf Shore Drive, Destin, 850-837-2247. **www.lapazdestin.com.**

PEPITO'S MEXICAN GRILL An enormous menu, plenty of room, and a friendly staff make Pepito's a good bet for a Mexican snack or feast. Traditional and unusual fare includes carnitas, enchiladas, fajitas, vegetarian dishes, steaks and seafood specialties. $4-19. 757 Harbor Blvd, Destin, 650-7734. Additional locations in Bluewater Bay and Fort Walton Beach. **www.mypepitos.com**.

PIZZA & PASTA

CRUST PIZZERIA We strive to make the very best pizza. We make our own dough and sauce and grate the finest whole milk mozzarella. We make our own meatballs, slice the Italian sweet sausages, chop the fresh vegetables, then assemble your pizza just for you and bake it to perfection in a brick oven. Eat-in, takeout and delivery. Wine and craft beers. Open Mon.-Sat., 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sundays, 4-10 p.m. 104 Harbor Blvd., Destin, 850-460-2990. **destincrustpizzeria.com**.

CRUST PIZZERIA Pizza, calzones, pasta, salads, desserts and more made fresh. Wine and craft beers. Open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. 433 Page Bacon Rd., Mary Esther, 850-737-2121.

CRUST PIZZERIA Pizza, calzones, pasta, salads, desserts and more made fresh. Wine and craft beers. Open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. 1826 Lewis Turner Blvd., Fort Walton Beach, 850-737-2299.

LANDSHARK'S PIZZA Daily happy hour, 3-6 p.m. and full liquor bar plus award-winning pizza and wings. 360 Harbor Blvd., Destin, 850-460-6743. **www.LandsharksPizza.com.**

MELLOW MUSHROOM PIZZA BAKERY Widely, wildly assorted menu of stone baked pizzas, hoagies, calzones, salads, and specialty items. Pizzas traditional and exotic include pesto, jerk chicken, gourmet white, and Magical Mystery Tour. Colorful psychedelic décor and friendly service. $4-25. 960 Hwy 98E, Sunsations Plaza, Destin, 650-6420.

REDBRICK PIZZA Fresh fire-roasted pizzas, fhazani sandwiches and gourmet Italian gelato Ice cream. We use only Qualita superior Italian cheeses and premium ingredients. Savor the passion of a century-old Italian tradition. Locations are Destin Commons next to Rave Motion Pictures, 850-424-5990; and Pier Park, Panama City Beach, 850-236-1413. Hours are Sun.-Thurs., 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

SEAFOOD

THE BACK PORCH Experience open air dining with the best view of the Gulf of Mexico. Serving grouper, oysters, fried crab claws and our famous char-grilled amberjack. Lunch and dinner. Open daily from 11 a.m. 1740 Old Highway 98 East, Destin. On U.S. 98 across from the Track, turn at the Hampton Inn, drive about 1/4 mile, and you'll find us on the right side. **www.theback-porch.com.** 850-837-2022.

CAPT. DAVE'S ON THE GULF A tradition since 1977, Capt. Dave's is a go-to place for the kind of seafood that made this area famous. A time-tested selection of fried, grilled, and broiled fish, shellfish, steaks and chicken, with house and seasonal specialties. Full bar. $5-25. 3796 Scenic Hwy 98, Destin, 850-837-2627.

GRANDE VISTA BAR & GRILL Located in the Emerald Grande. Open daily 7 a.m.-9 p.m. for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Grande Vista Bar & Grill has delicious local seafood, signature sandwiches and mouth-watering burgers. Enjoy casual or business lunch inside or poolside overlooking the Destin Harbor. Enjoy special drink prices inside or outside at our poolside bar. The view from our pool deck is simply breathtaking. Half-priced drinks daily, 4-6 p.m. 10 Harbor Blvd., Destin, 850-337-8100 x1550. **info@emeraldgrande.com.**

HARBOR DOCKS on the historic Destin Harbor has been serving simply prepared Gulf to table seafood from its own market since 1979. Offering hearty breakfasts, a lunch menu featuring blue plate specials alongside authentic Thai dishes, and the area's best sushi by world famous Chef Yoshie Eddings. In addition to traditional Gulf seafood dishes, there is something for everyone. 538 Harbor Blvd., Destin, 850-837-2506. harbordocks.com.

HARRY T'S LIGHTHOUSE Located in HarborWalk Village right on the beautiful Destin Harbor, Harry T's has something for all ages! With entrees ranging from fresh local seafood to our gourmet hamburgers, there's something for everyone! Voted Best Place to Watch the Sunset four years in a row, our outside deck offers an unparalleled view of the Destin Harbor. Mega Happy Hour Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. 46 Harbor Blvd., Destin, 850-654-4800. **info@harryts.co.**

LOCAL CATCH has established itself as a Hot Spot for fresh coastal cuisine with superior customer service. Dine in daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and enjoy Happy Hour Mon.-Fri., 3-5 p.m. Join us every Sunday for live music from 3 to 7 p.m. 3711 West Scenic Highway 30A, Santa Rosa Beach, 850-622-2022. **www.localcatch30a.com.**

OLD BAY STEAMER Wide variety of fresh steamed seafood served in every imaginable combination. Choose from crab, shrimp, lobster, oysters, clams, mussels, and fresh catch of the day. Pasta and steak/seafood pairings also offered. Friendly, efficient service. Open daily for dinner, with full bar. $4-27, 102 Santa Rosa Blvd., Okaloosa Island, 664-2795.

Bartender of the Issue

Danielle Cowart

Swizzle Stick Lounge, Okaloosa Island

Danielle, originally from Mobile, has been making customers happy at this popular drinking spot since she moved here in 2003.

"I like the atmosphere and I like the people," she says as she tops off my Crown Royal and Coca-Cola. "And Chris Hayes would shoot me if I left!" Hayes, nominated this year for the Beachcomber Music Awards Hall of Fame, has been playing and singing here as long as Danielle's been pouring.

The clientele at the Stick favors locals more than hotel guests (for anyone that just got back from a long trip to Mars, the bar is located in the Best Western hotel). Danielle says lots of Snowbirds come back to see her every winter.

And enjoy drinks like chocolate martinis and the Swizzle Stick exclusive, the Monkey's Milk martini. "It has vanilla vodka, Malibu rum, Bailey's, banana…," says Danielle. The bartender favors Maker's Mark Manhattans when it's time for her to indulge.

Her hobbies include making decorative lamps from discarded wine bottles. "I was trying to make a girlfriend an original housewarming project," she says. "I drilled holes in a bottle and ran lights through it. This is my third year doing this. I've probably made a hundred of them."

Danielle offers good advice for anyone willing to brave the other side of the bar. "The biggest thing, you have to have personality and be in control of the situation. If you're really busy and it shows in your face, you're going to go down!"

- Chris Manson

Wines to Try – MAN Chenin Blanc

The brand incorporates the initials of the names of the three winemakers' wives—Marie, Anette and Nicky. The wines are distinctive in that these winemakers are focused on producing a range of varietal wines from one region, the Agter-Pearl area of South Africa.

This is a crisp, medium-bodied wine with vibrant aromas of quince and tropical fruit. On the palate, fresh stone fruit (apricots and peaches) and apple flavors are backed by acidity and a mineral quality.

The Chenin Blanc is the only free-run juice (no pressing of the grapes) to preserve its clean and natural character, with refreshing acidity and delicious ripe fruit flavors.

It's a versatile option for almost any dish, especially Thai curries, Mediterranean tapas and rich seafood dishes. The wine is also fabulous as an aperitif for a hot summer afternoon and ages beautifully over two to five years.

Come try a glass or bottle of this South African gem at the Twisted Grape Wine Bar & Cafe in Shalimar.

- Debbie Thomas

Restaurant Guide

ORIGINAL WATERFRONT CRAB SHACK Located on the water. The Crab Shack serves crab, shrimp, oysters, mussels, scallops and assorted local fish in an informal and family-friendly a.m.sphere. Crab steamer buckets, fried seafood baskets, sandwiches and po-boys, and some land-based items. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Daily specials, inside and outside dining. Full bar. $3-45. 104 Miracle Strip Pkwy., Fort Walton Beach. 850-664-0345.

POMPANO JOE'S Come on in for some fun and fresh seafood with a very exciting flavor. Try our famous reggae rolls and our garlic crusted grouper! Lunch and dinner. Open daily from 11 a.m. 2237 Scenic Gulf Highway, Destin. Take Holiday Road South, turn right on scenic Hwy. 98, drive down about two blocks, and you'll find us on the left side. **www.pompano-joes.com**. 850-837-2224.

SALTWATER GRILL We provide a relaxing, casual atmosphere designed to heighten the enjoyment of our customers' dining experience. Most of our tables have entertaining views of a 25,000-gallon aquarium filled with exotic fish. Become mesmerized by the soothing sounds of **Michael Rorah,** our singing pianist, who plays Tuesday through Saturday evenings. Lobsters available for viewing and choosing at the front of the restaurant. Open 4-10 p.m. 1100 Hutchinson Blvd., Panama City Beach, 850-230-2739, **saltwatergrillpcb.com.**

STINKY'S FISH CAMP Seafood is king at this informal Santa Rosa Beach eatery. Oysters "all ways," crawfish pie, catfish or frog legs meuniere, and gumbo are just a few of the Louisiana-inspired dishes. Service is friendly and attentive. Open daily 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Serving brunch on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Beer, wine and live music at Stinky's Bait Shack from 6 to 9 p.m. 5960 Scenic Highway 30A, Santa Rosa Beach, 850-267-3053.

STEAKS

MCGUIRE'S IRISH PUB OF DESTIN One of America's Great Steak Houses. Feasting, Imbibery and Debauchery. We are known for great food, exceptional service, our own craft brewed beers, and fun live entertainment. Open LATE, from 11 a.m. to 1:45 a.m. seven days a week. 33 U.S. 98, Destin, 850-650-0000, **www.mcguiresirishpub.com.**

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE serves the finest aged, corn-fed USDA Prime beef. Broiled in a trademark 1,800° broiler and served on a plate heated to 500 degrees, your steak is presented sizzling hot at your table. Happy hour daily from 5 to 7 p.m. in any of our three bars, including the new East Bar. We boast an array of private event spaces, our own private billiard room, valet parking, and live entertainment five nights a week from *Billboard*-charting recording artist Michael J Thomas (upon availability). Open seven days a week at 5 p.m. For reservations, call 850-837-RUTH (7884) or visit **www.RuthsChrisDestin.com.**

SALTWATER GRILL Open 4-10 p.m. 1100 Hutchinson Blvd., Panama City Beach, 850-230-2739, **saltwatergrillpcb.com.**

SEAGAR'S PRIME STEAKS & SEAFOOD The area's first AAA 4-Diamond restaurant specializing in the finest prime beef and freshest seafood available. Private dining facilities and wine room with more than 800 labels. Features tableside preparations and live piano nightly. Reservations recommended. 622-1500. $10-50, 4000 Sandestin Blvd., at the Hilton Sandestin. **www.SeagarsDestin.com**

SUSHI

JACKACUDAS SEAFOOD & SUSHI is a locally-owned seafood and sushi restaurant overlooking the historic Destin Harbor. The name derives from a famous fishing hole located 34 miles southwest of the Destin Harbor at 30'04.250N and 87'02.125W. Specializing in fresh, locally sourced seafood and products to provide our guests with classic Gulf Coast seafood dishes with New South culinary preparation. Open daily, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. 56 Harbor Blvd., Destin, 850-424-3507. **www.jackacudas.com.**

OSAKA JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE AND SUSHI BAR 34745 Emerald Coast Pkwy, Destin, 650-4688.

OSAKA SUSHI ROCKS It's the little Sushi house on the Lagoon. Osaka Sushi Rocks offers an extensive list of sushi, sashimi, and rolls, both classic and regional specialties. Friendly, serene a.m.sphere. Tempura, noodles and

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teriyaki favorites also available. Wine and beer. $4-50. 108 Cannery Lane, Village of Baytowne Wharf, 351-1006.

VKI JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE, SUSHI BAR & HIBACHI Serving authentic Japanese cuisine. Come in and enjoy fresh seafood, chicken, pork and beef cooked to suit most tastes. We offer Hibachi, Teriyaki, Tempura, Katsu, Japanese noodles and fresh Sushi. Beer, wine and sake. Happy hour, 4:40-6:30 p.m. Open seven days a week—lunch, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; dinner, 4:30-9:30 p.m. 4552 U.S. 98 Suite 1 & 2, Santa Rosa Beach, 850-267-2555. Gift certificates available.

TAPAS AND WINE

LA CREMA TAPAS AND CHOCOLATE Spanish-inspired tapas restaurant featuring unique tapas and Spanish wines. The European vibe provides a relaxing atmosphere where we encourage guests to share dishes, converse and enjoy Rosemary Beach living. Open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. 38 Main St., Rosemary Beach, 850-624-7282, **lacrematapas.com.**

WATERFRONT DINING

CRAB ISLAND CANTINA Traditional and not so traditional Mexican and Latin food, featuring snapper enchiladas, grouper tacos, and award-winning seafood chorizo gumbo. Great selection of seafood dishes and Black Angus steaks, and all are big portions so make sure you're hungry. Spacious dining area, multiple bars, even a fountain, plus the view of Destin Bridge and the East Pass. Full bar, wide choice of margaritas and beers, $4-28, HarborWalk Village, Destin, inside the Crab Island Cantina Complex. 850-424-7417. **www.CrabIslandCantina.com.**

FUDPUCKER'S BEACHSIDE BAR & GRILL – OKALOOSA ISLAND Find out why Fudpucker's is #1 for Food and Fun. Fud's has offered great food, live alligators and world famous t-shirts since 1982m and our waterfront location across from the Ramada Plaza has it all—**Fat Daddy's Arcade, Escape Zone 60, Maximum Magic Dinner Show** and **Fudpucker's Watersports** where you can rent a jet ski, paddleboard or pontoon boat. You'll also find charter boats, the "Puc Dat" airboat and the Cattywampus Catamaran on our docks at Bayside Marina. 1318 Miracle Strip Parkway. Call 850-243-3833 or visit us at **www.fudpucker.com.**

JIMMY BUFFETT'S MARGARITAVILLE From a volcano flowing with Margaritas to suspended airplanes, Margaritaville is more than a restaurant; it's a state of mind. Open daily, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Five O'Clock Somewhere celebration Mon.-Thu., 4-7 p.m. 76 Harbor Blvd., Destin, 850-460-7700. **www.margaritavilledestin.com.**

LUCY BUFFETT'S LULU'S DESTIN is located next to the Mid Bay Bridge and Legendary Marine on the Choctawhatchee Bay in beautiful Destin, Florida. A little off the beaten path, but we like a little more room to breathe. Specializing in the BEST Burgers in Paradise, Southern Favorites and Lucy's own GUMBO LOVE! Family friendly! Come by boat, anchor and wade in or call for our boat shuttle. Open daily at 11 a.m. Live music nightly. Separate allergy menu. Beach for the kids to play, Fountain of Youth, LuLu's Gift Shop. 850-710-LULU (5858). **www.lulubuffett.com/destin.**

VUE ON 30A showcases one of the best views for dining in all of South Walton. Open to the public and serving lunch, dinner, happy hour and Sunday brunch. Named "Best Restaurant of 2014" by *The Beachcomber,* Vue on 30a offers the ultimate dining experience. Open for Sunday brunch, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; lunch Tue.-Sat., 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; happy hour Tue.-Sat., 3-6 p.m.; dinner Tue.-Sat., 4:30-8:30 p.m. Two for one entrée specials Wed.-Sat., 4:30-6 p.m. 4801 Scenic Highway 30A, Santa Rosa Beach, 850-267-2305. **www.Vueon30a.com.**

WINE BARS

45 CENTRAL WINE BAR Tucked away in Seaside's bustling Central Square, 45 Central offers a calm and relaxing atmosphere perfect for unwinding after a busy vacation day or a long day at work. Over 45 different wines available by the glass, bottle or case. Exclusive vintages sold by the glass using Coravin Wine Technology. Small plates of seasonal and regional pairings created daily by award-winning chef and owner **Jim Shirley**. Check us out online for wine classes, events and specials at **fortyfivecentral.com**. 45 Central Square, Seaside, 850-231-4545. Open 2 p.m.-midnight seven days a week.

Where to Spend Your Happy Hours in Beachcomberland

If your bar isn't listed here, you need to email **chris@beachcomberdestin.com** *immediately!*

THE BEACH HOUSE
4009 S. Sandestin Blvd., Miramar Beach
850-608-6300
RelaxDrinkEat.com
When: 4-7 p.m. daily.
Drink Specials: $4 Bud Light on tap and house wine, $5 well drinks, $6 food menu.

CRAB ISLAND CANTINA
HarborWalk Village, Destin
850-424-7417
When: Everyday from 3 to 6 p.m.
Drink Specials: $4 house margaritas, $3 well drinks and house wine, $3 Corona, Corona Light, Bud Light and Miller Lite.

CAMILLE'S CAFE
2931 Scenic Highway 98, Destin
850-337-8860
When: 3-5 p.m. daily.
Drink Specials: Lots, including Camille's Signature Sangria. Plus a stunning view of the Gulf.

FISHHEADS
HarborWalk Village, Destin
When: 6-8 p.m. daily.
Drink Specials: $1 off premium drafts and Drink of the Day.

FOKKER'S PUB
215 Miracle Strip Parkway SE Unit #1, Fort Walton Beach
850-244-6666
When: 3-7 p.m. daily; 3 p.m.-close Tuesdays.
Drink Specials: Everything half price except Bushwhackers and high end bourbons.

45 CENTRAL WINE BAR
45 Central Square, Seaside
850-231-4545
fortyfivecentral.com
When: 4-6 p.m. daily. Paella nights Wednesdays and Fridays.
Drink Specials: Half off wine by the glass, $1 off beer.

FUDPUCKER'S BEACHSIDE BAR & GRILL
20001 Emerald Coast Parkway, Destin
850-654-4200
When: All day long.
Drink Specials: Smirnoff martinis $4.99 all day every day. World Famous Fudpucker Punch $5.99, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Daily deals with download of the Fud app.

FUDPUCKER'S BEACHSIDE BAR & GRILL
1318 Miracle Strip Parkway, Okaloosa Island
When: All day long.
Drink Specials: Smirnoff martinis $4.99 all day every day. World Famous Fudpucker Punch $5.99, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Daily deals with download of the Fud app.

Original art by Angie Boling.

GRANDE VISTA
Emerald Grande, HarborWalk Village, Destin
850-337-8100, ext. 1550
When: 4-6 p.m. daily.
Drink Specials: All drinks half off (except bottles of wine and Drink Special of the Day), plus specially priced apps.

HARRY T'S
HarborWalk Village, Destin
850-654-4800
When: Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m.-7 p.m.—downstairs bar only.
Drink Specials: Half off drinks.

HOG'S BREATH SALOON
541 Harbor Blvd., Destin
850-837-5991
When: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and 10 p.m. to close, Mon.-Fri.
Drink Specials: Half off wells and calls, $1 Bud Light draft, $1 off domestic beer and wines.

JACKACUDAS
HarborWalk Village, Destin
850-424-3507
When: Monday-Friday, 3-6 p.m. Sushi bar and bar area only. Bonzai Wednesdays, 6 p.m.-close with half price sake, house wine, apps and sushi rolls.
Drink Specials: Half-price hot sake carafes, house wine pours, select draft beers and select apps, plus $5 California rolls, spicy krab rolls and crunch salmon rolls.

JIMMY BUFFETT'S MARGARITAVILLE
HarborWalk Village, Destin
850-460-7700
When: Monday-Friday, 10 p.m.-close.
Drink Specials: $3 14-ounce Bud Light or Landshark draft, $4 Barefoot cabernet and chardonnay, $5 "Who's to Blame" margaritas and "5 O'Clock Somewhere" cocktails.

LANDSHARK'S PIZZA
300 Harbor Blvd., Destin
850-424-6743
When: 3-6 p.m. daily.
Drink Specials: $1 off well drinks, $2.25 domestic drafts and bottles, $4 wine.

LA PAZ
950 Gulf Shore Drive, Destin
850-837-2247
When: 4-6 p.m. daily.
Drink Specials: $5 top shelf Margaritas, FREE chips and salsa.

LUCY BUFFETT'S LULU'S
4607 Legendary Marina Drive, Destin
850-710-LULU (5858)
When: Monday-Friday, 3-6 p.m.
Drink Specials: $2 select drafts, $8 pitchers, $3 glass house wines, $4 rocks house Margaritas, $6 frozen house Margaritas and Daiquiris.

RED DOOR SALOON
Destin
When: Mon.-Fri., 3-7 p.m., $1 off beer, wine and wells. Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., two-for-one wells and beer.

SAMMY'S
1224 Santa Rosa Blvd., Fort Walton Beach
When: Early happy hour, 1-6 p.m. Late night happy hour, 2-4 a.m. Never a cover charge for escorted women, military, or restaurant-hotel-bar employees.
Drink Specials: Early happy hour—two for $5 well drinks, $10 buckets of beer, two-for-one shot specials, no cover charge. Late night happy hour—two for $6 well drinks, $12 buckets of beer, two-for-one shot specials, no cover charge after 3 a.m.

VUE ON 30A
4801 West County Highway 30A, Santa Rosa Beach
850-267-2305
When: Seven days a week, 3-6 p.m.
Drink Specials: $5 house wine and discounts on well and call liquor and beer, plus up to 20 percent off select bar menu pricing.

Willie

By Sean Dietrich

Last week, my wife surprised me with tickets to a Willie Nelson concert, saying, "Pack your bags, Miss Daisy."

The next thing I knew, we were sitting 400 feet away from the Red Headed Stranger himself.

He played all the classics. One by one. And when he sang "Mamas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys," I cried. Since my mama decidedly failed in this regard.

Willie finished the concert by welcoming Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter onto the stage. Seven thousand of us rose to our feet and nearly tore the place apart. The 91-year-old president hugged the 83-year-old cowboy. I couldn't have been happier if I'd seen Bear Bryant and Jesus shake hands.

Then Willie sang "Amazing Grace."

So did Jimmy and Rosalynn.

So did I.

Seven thousand folks set their beers down—since this is what you do while singing hymns. The woman next to me sat down and just stared into the night sky, listening to all the voices.

Willie sang the second verse.

I closed my eyes.

We sang this song at my grandmama's funeral, at my grandaddy's, my uncle's, my cousin's, father-in-law's, and Daddy's. To people of my pedigree, this song is sacred.

Willie rounded the fourth verse. *When we've been there, ten thousand years...*

Jimmy Carter raised one hand. That's what self-respecting Baptists do during hymn singing. It's our way of saying, "Here comes the good part."

Of course, Jimmy was right to do that. This was the best verse. At funerals, it's what you sing just prior to tossing a handful of dirt into a giant hole—just before you sob for eight days straight.

Waterproof mascara doesn't stand a chance during this verse.

Because this is when it all becomes real. When you understand your loved one will never come back. Once upon a time, Daddy drew breath into that big chest. Now his lungs are empty.

In this moment, you should feel angry and alone. But you don't. The song prevents it somehow.

That's why Willie Nelson sang it. Why Jimmy and Rosalynn sang it. Why Mama sings it to this day.

Because sometimes, you wonder how you've made it this far without busting in two. You wonder whether it's blind luck or some kind of mercy from On High.

Well, 7,000 Georgians seem to know exactly what it is. After all, they're singing about it. They call it grace. I don't care what you call it.

It saved a wretch like me.

And Willie.

Carl Hiaasen CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

the sake of profit, overlooked Beijing's suppression of dissent and persecution of activists and journalists.

President Trump complains loudly about Chinese monetary policy—not the treatment of political prisoners.

Enterprise Florida, a controversial pro-business consortium that gets 90 percent of its funding from state taxpayers, opened offices in Shanghai and Hong Kong in March 2014.

Its press release boasted that China was "Florida's No. 1 largest import market" and "the No. 1 customer for the Port of Miami in overall tonnage."

The board of Enterprise Florida is chaired by Gov. Scott, who at the time clearly had no qualms about our seaports accepting cargo from a communist regime.

Not long after Enterprise Florida opened its doors in Hong Kong, police in that city began rounding up pro-democracy protesters. In all, 955 people were arrested.

Not a peep of outrage was heard then from Scott. Yet now he surfaces, bristling with phony alarm because Port Everglades and the Port of Palm Beach were hosting a trade delegation from Cuba.

Officials at those ports had planned to sign memoranda opening future business discussions with Havana. "Disappointed some FL ports would enter into any agreement with Cuban dictatorship," Scott tweeted. "I will recommend restricting state funds for ports that work with Cuba..."

Both Port Everglades and the Port of Palm Beach quickly backed away from signing cooperation papers. Last week the governor submitted a budget that included a threat to withhold infrastructure funds from any port that expands trade with Cuba.

The ports wouldn't be breaking any laws. Exports of certain commodities and medical supplies to Cuba are legal, and since 2010 U.S. companies have shipped 4.8 million tons, about one-sixth of it from Florida ports.

How odd that Scott hasn't confronted the major airlines that are now flying direct to the island from Florida, or the cruise lines seeking berths in Havana Harbor.

Maybe he forgot about them, or maybe just doesn't want to piss off big corporations that might donate to his Senate campaign.

The same sort of human-rights crimes that occur in Cuba are happening throughout China and other countries with which we freely do business.

For American politicians, lambasting Chinese leaders is risky, because China has lots of money, and manufactures lots of stuff we want: computers, clothes, sneakers.

It's much easier to act indignant about the Cuban government, because Cuba is poor and doesn't have much to sell us.

Thus appears Rick Scott, intrepid crusader for human rights.

But if there was serious money in old Havana, you can bet that Enterprise Florida would put an office there.

Carl Hiaasen is a columnist for the Miami Herald. *Readers may write to him at 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132.*

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HarborWalk Village's 9th Annual

IRISH GROGG MARCH

FRIDAY, MARCH 17
6:00PM

"Sham-Rock" for a cause! Join the largest Grogg March Pub Crawl this side of the Blarney Stone! Lucky for you, the $10 pass gets you drink specials all night. Proceeds benefit Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation, Inc.

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